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THE NUTSHELL STORY CLUB

PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL.

May Phillips Tatrow, First Prize.
Mrs. Bernice Babcock, Second Prize.
Zack Z. Zozzy, Third Prize.
Virginia Mary Ring, Fourth Prize.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

The following conditions will hereafter govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nuts�ell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.
All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two new yearly subscribers (together with 25 cents for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors who may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 1,500 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.
5. The writer of the best original story will receive \$30 cash; of the second best, \$25 cash; of the third best, \$20 cash; and of the fourth best, \$15 cash. Remittances will be made by check as soon as awards have been made.

The publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

STRAY.

By MAY PHILLIPS TATROW.

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ENGINEER FRANK BIXBEY found him one cold morning in December, as he was hurrying along the platform to mount his cab, ready for the North run. Poor little shivering, whining puppy! He had either wandered away from his home, or been left purposely by some one who did not want him, and who took this method of getting rid of him.

But, be that as it may, Engineer Frank's big, soft heart was touched by the little helpless thing, and without pausing to give the matter a moment's thought, picked the dog up in his arms, and stepped into the cab. A moment or two later, the engine started on its north-bound run, and a cunning little curly dog lay snug and warm, fast asleep on part of Frank's leather-cushioned seat—dreaming, no doubt, of the time when he would be large enough to whip some other dog.

As the train slowed up, preparatory to stopping at the first station North, Stray, as Frank had named him, awakened and made lively manifestations of being hungry. So when the train stopped, Frank left the engine in charge of his fireman, there being no switching to do, and walked along the platform in search of some "small boy" who, if well rewarded, would go and get

Frank, as his touch on the lever started the train on its Northward way again.

Bess was four years old, and her delight at this new and very frisky acquisition to the little family of three, can better be imagined than described. But when Frank started the next morning for his daily run, trouble and many bitter tears were in store for little Bess. The dog would not be left behind. His whining and howls of anguish were too much for both Frank and his wife, and in spite of Bess's sobs and lamentations, off went happy Stray as fast as his fat little legs could carry him, which was not quite fast enough to keep pace with his master's long strides. So he had to be carried night and morning for a month or more, until he grew large enough to convey himself to the waiting cab. It was amusing to see him express his joy, mornings, when he caught sight of the engine. He would run around it, and caper and bark, looking up at the great iron monster as much as to say, "You and your master were my first and only friends, and I'm proud and overjoyed to see you again this morning." Then he would leap into the cab, give a wise look around to see that everything was all right, jump up on the seat, and sit there as grave and sober as a judge and no one could coax or drive him down until Frank was ready to start.



STRAY SUCCEEDED IN DRAGGING SOMETHING WHITE FROM THE TRACK.

And such a favorite as Stray was with all the train men and agents along the line! When the train stopped at a station, he was the first off to greet old friends, and make new ones.

He never got left, either. He understood perfectly when the conductor called "All aboard," and did not wait for a second warning. He would rush for the engine and spring into the cab, standing where he could look out, and wagging his tail—his way of saying "Good-bye" to those on the platform, as long as he could see anybody.

When Stray and his master made their run after dark, Stray always seemed a little uneasy, and would sit either on Frank's lap or on the seat next to the cab window, and gaze very keenly and earnestly out into the night. If it was particularly dark he would whine now and then, and look from the blackness outside into his master's face in an inquiring way, as though asking if he thought it was all right.

One of those dark nights, when the East-bound passenger train had been delayed and the North train had received orders to wait for it, Stray was unusually nervous and fidgety after they finally started homeward. It was in June, when Stray was two years old, and the night was moonless and cloudy. The track, within two miles of Greenfield, the terminus of the road, where Frank's Bess and

some milk for "the assistant engineer," as the train boys had already dubbed his canine pet.

"I'll take him to Baby Bess," thought

her mama lived and watched every other night for papa and Stray, ran up a steep grade, so that necessarily the train always entered the town at a slow rate of speed. On this dark night I am telling you about, they were running a little slower than usual for they had a mixed train, heavily loaded with ore, besides a number of cars of cattle and lumber.

Stray, as I said, was more keen and alert this evening than ever before, and gazed intently into the darkness ahead of the cab, never taking his eyes from the straight line of track ahead. Suddenly, as the train puffed heavily at the beginning of the up-hill grade, he gave a short, quick bark, and without a look backward, sprang out of the cab window and was lost in the darkness. A moment later his excited yelps, almost human in their efforts to be heard above the noise of the train, sounded in Frank's ears. He quickly reversed the engine and whistled for "down brakes!"

Slowly the long train came to a standstill, just as Stray, with the most vigorous efforts, had succeeded in dragging from the track something white—something that sat up and was crying when Frank, who had jumped from the cab, reached the spot and took it up in his arms.

It was Bess!

The child had wandered away "to meet papa," as she said, and becoming tired, had laid down on the track and fallen asleep. Her mother had missed her about three o'clock in the afternoon, and had aroused the neighbors, who were hunting in every direction except the right one.

Wise Stray; what prompted his unusual watchfulness and vigilance on that particular night? And how could his gentle brown eyes see any farther or penetrate the darkness more keenly than those of his master, who was gazing straight ahead, his eyes fixed continually on the track? Yet the latter did not see the white garments of the child, although he knew when Stray jumped from the cab, there was something to stop for.

Stray was rechristened, and the trainmen bought him a gold collar with "Hero" engraved upon it in large letters. And you may be sure that Engineer Frank Bixbey was never sorry he took pity on a stray puppy.

Hero still rides in the cab on his beloved engine, and enjoys all his honors and privileges to the fullest extent, while his proud master is duly grateful for the rescue of his only child by one of God's dumb creatures.

DR. JAKE MANNERS.

By MRS. BERNICE BABCOCK.

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THE first place, my husband traveled, and I was alone most of the time.

In the second place, I had a croupy baby; and in the third place, just before going to bed on the night of which I write, I had

noticed in the evening paper a paragraph stating that a man, an inmate of the State Lunatic Asylum, situated a few miles of the city, had made his escape.

I had hardly touched my pillow that night when I fell asleep and slept soundly for some time, when imagining I heard my baby I suddenly awoke.

The baby was all right, but I was surprised to see the door leading from my room into the parlor, which I remembered distinctly having opened before going to bed, closed.

Through the crack under the door a bright light shone, and I could smell the fumes of tobacco smoke.

I slipped on my wrapper and went softly toward the parlor door. When I opened it I saw a sight which made my heart beat faster than the rattling in my baby's throat had ever done.

The lamp was burning brightly on the table. I think nothing escaped my observation.

Seated in an easy chair with his elbows resting on the table was a man. I can see him yet as he turned his face. I think I never saw a handsomer one.

He was large and well formed, with gray hair and beard, and large brown eyes. His face wore a kindly expression, and I think if I had met him under different circumstances I would have been charmed with him.

He was smoking a pipe and reading a paper. Within reach of his hand on the table gleamed a razor blade.

How could he have entered the house? I glanced toward the front door and knew. The spring lock was turned off, as I had fastened it before going out that afternoon.

By the time these things had flashed across my mind he had become aware of my presence, and turned towards me.

"Who are you and what are you doing in my house?" I demanded, in as firm a voice as I could command.

"I am Doctor Jake Manners," said he pleasantly. "You have a croupy baby and I have come to cure it. The treatment is very simple, and if I succeed, (as I know I shall) the operation will make me famous."

"You see," picking up the razor, "when the head is full of cold and the throat full of phlegm, there is no way for the air to reach the lungs. Now if the windpipe were opened so that the air might reach it from the outside, the patient would find immediate relief."

He drew his finger around his throat, almost from ear to ear, as he spoke.

"But that would kill the baby," I gasped.

"No, no, madam—no danger, and I must try. Then I knew by the strange glitter that came into his eye what manner of man I had to deal with, so I said as composedly as possible:

"Perhaps it is as you say; in fact, I think your plan is a good one, but you are in no hurry, are you?"

"Oh no," said he, again speaking pleasantly.

"The baby is sleeping quietly now, I will wait until it has a choking spell." (I could only pray she would not have one and try to think of some means of escape.)

I went into my room and looked at my watch. It was half-past eleven. There was no chance of anyone coming in at that hour.

I must go for some one.

I wondered if he would let me out, and if he should, whether he would sit quietly reading after I had gone. My only chance lay in getting help, as I was sure the baby would have a restless spell before morning.

"Doctor," said I, entering the room again, "I think your plan is a most admirable one, and I



"BUT THAT WOULD KILL THE BABY," I GASPED.

am convinced that your treatment of my child's throat will greatly relieve her; but I am wholly unprepared for the operation. If you will excuse me just a moment I will step to the next door and ask for the use of a roll of linen and cloths to absorb the blood."

He looked at me suspiciously a moment, but

evidently could detect nothing in my words or looks that would lead him to suppose I did not mean what I said, so he bade me go and hurry back.

I did not need this warning. After taking the back door key, to be used in case he locked the front door after me, I did hurry. I think I flew rather than ran as soon as I got outside the gate, for I did not know what he might be doing even then.

I had no difficulty in rousing my neighbors. The door was only partly opened, but I bolted in, shutting it behind me.

You can imagine their surprise—the wife in bed, the husband standing behind the door in his night-clothes.

It makes me laugh now to think of it, but it was no laughing matter then.

I hardly waited to catch my breath before I told them my home and baby were in possession of a madman, and begged them for heaven's sake to help me.

Before I had finished telling them this I heard my baby scream.

My blood froze in my veins. Could it be that the darling had wakened and called for "mama" and that he had gone to it with that glittering razor?

I sprang up—I was in bed. There sat my baby beside me crying for water. I gave her a drink; then I rubbed my eyes and looked around—toward the door going into the parlor. It was open as I had left it.

I got out of bed, turned up the light and went into the parlor.

The lamp was out. The chair was gone from the table side. The razor and paper had also disappeared.

I tried the front door. It was securely bolted. I sniffed the air for the scent of tobacco smoke but could detect none.

I glanced into each of the four corners of the room, but no man was hiding there.

Dr. Jake Manners had disappeared as mysteriously as he had come.

Black Miguel's Conversion.

By ZACK Z. ZOZZY.

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COOLEST man I ever saw I met in one of the low saloons of Santa Fe, some twenty years ago. I shudder even now when I recall the deed I saw him do and think of the manner in which he did it.

The hour was near midnight. The saloon was crowded with rough men; brawny, fine-looking fellows, but with passions almost as fierce and untamed as Bengal tigers. The air was thick with the fumes of tobacco and heavy with the odors of stale liquor. The lamps shone red through the murky atmosphere and but dimly lighted the features of the men seated in the far corners of the room. There was the chink, chink of glasses and the gurgling sounds of flowing liquor, as the fiery fluids of the bar were poured down hot throats to kindle the hot blood of these passionate men.

Before the bar, with one elbow leaning lightly upon the rude counter, slowly sipping a glass of whiskey, stood a tall, broad-shouldered man. I knew the man at a glance. The lion's mane of long coal-black hair falling gracefully over the shoulders, the piercing black eyes that somehow always made me think of the eyes of the deadly cobra, the dark handsome face, the tall athletic frame. Yes, I knew them well and I, in common with every other man and woman in Santa Fe, knew that their presence boded death to someone, just as surely as though a hungry tiger prowled about the streets of the city.

Black Miguel, for thus was the man at the bar called, set the emptied glass down. "Fill 'er up again," he commanded and the bar-keeper made haste to obey. Then lifting the glass high in his left hand, while his right toyed suggestively with the butt of one of his revolvers, he summoned every man in the room to drink to his health and long life.

The bronzed and bearded men crowded quickly forward. The glasses were filled; but before they were lifted to the lips Black Miguel glanced about to see if all had obeyed his command. Every occupant of the room stood at the bar, glass in hand, save one, and he, a mere youth with the bloom of roses on his cheeks, sat near one of the lamps quietly reading a letter.

My heart jumped to my throat at the sight. He looked so innocent and seemed so totally unaware of his danger, of what it meant to offend such a man as Black Miguel.

The glint in Black Miguel's eyes brightened when he caught sight of the youth and his dark cheeks flushed. In a voice of thunder he repeated his command, while his right hand half drew the revolver from his belt.

I wondered at his giving the command again. It was his custom to let his revolver speak for him the second time.

The youth lifted his eyes from off his letter just long enough to say quietly: "Thank you, sir. I never drink intoxicating liquors," and then, as quietly, he resumed his reading.

Such an answer the bravest man in the room, and as brave men as ever lived were there, would not have cared to make. Yet not a rose changed its tint in the youth's fair cheeks, and he seemed utterly unconscious of the mortal affront contained in his refusal to drink to the health and long life of the man at the bar.

I saw Black Miguel's face pale and I knew by the wicked look in his eyes that the reply of the boy, for he looked but little more than a boy, had aroused the sleeping devil within him.

He lowered the glass of whiskey, but still holding it in his hand and drawing his revolver, strode across the room to the side of the boy.

Not a man offered to interfere, though many a rough hand besides my own crept close to the butt of a revolver. I think all felt, as I felt, that the lad could not be so mad as to refuse a second invitation to drink. For never yet had a man attempted to thwart Black Miguel and lived.

The youth laid his letter down and, shifting slightly his position, turned the blue of his eyes full upon Black Miguel. Otherwise, none would have supposed from his looks or acts that the doings of the man concerned him in the least.

"Will yer swall'r this liker; or will yer wait to drink o' th' devil's brewin' when yer git to hell?" Black Miguel said, extending the glass and holding the cocked pistol within six inches of the youth's head.



Black Miguel's forehead. The pistol went off harmlessly into the air and the man was hurled senseless to the floor, as though he had been struck by a battering-ram.

Without uttering a word and with scarcely a perceptible deepening of the red on his cheeks, the youth stood watching the fallen man.

Black Miguel lay senseless, it might be for the space of a minute, then he slowly staggered to his feet and stood staring at the boy, not offering to harm him, though he still held his revolver in his hand. I think a more astonished man than he was at that moment never lived.

The youth, as a pleasant smile lighted up his round boyish face, extended his hand to Black Miguel and said: "My friend, pardon me for declining to drink with you. I could not do it. Shake and let us be friends. I need your help."

Black Miguel hesitated for a moment, then gripped the proffered hand and shook it with true western heartiness.

Well, the boy was a divinity student and the champion athlete of a leading New England college off on a missionary vacation trip and he wanted Black Miguel to help him with his meetings.

Did he do it? Yes; and was converted the first night and to-day not a man in all that section of country is more honored and respected than this same once notorious desperado, Black Miguel.

"If Mr. T. Lockwood, who sent us a story, 'An Adventure in California,' will send his address to the Boston office of COMFORT, 228 Devonshire St., he will hear of something to his advantage."

Great-Grandpa's Shoe Buckles.

By VIRGINIA MARY KING.

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TO MYNE dearly beloved daughter Elizabeth I do hereby Bequeathe, in addition to what I have already given Her, my far-famed Shoe-Buckles, the same that be sett with the curious jewels."

Cousin Lenore and I sat on the floor of Grandmother Lee's garret, with Great-Grandfather Haven's will before us. We had discovered it amongst a lot of letters and documents of a by-gone age in an old trunk pushed away back under the eaves.

"Where do you suppose those 'far-famed shoe-buckles' are now?" asked Lenore, with a laugh.

"And who was 'my daughter Elizabeth'?" I answered, Yankee-fashion.

"Oh, some dead and gone female. Why no—Dorothy! Grandma Lee's name is Elizabeth!"

"Why, of course! How stupid of us! I'll wager there's a story connected with those shoe-buckles. Let's ask Grandma to tell it to us."

No sooner said than done, for what could be nicer on a rainy day in the country than a tale of Grandma's girlhood.

Down the garret stairs we flew, and burst into the sitting-room, startling Grandma from her placid doze.

"Well, lassies, what now?"

"Oh Grandma, we want—" (from Lenore), "to know—" (from me), "the story of—" (broke in Len), (both together), "Great-Grandpa's shoe-buckles!"

For a moment Grandma looked dazed, so we laughingly quieted down, and I explained how we'd found her father's will, and asked her to tell us about the shoe-buckles he had left her.

"Well, well, lassies, dearie me! how time does go, to be sure! Why, my dearies, those buckles I'd forgotten all about; still they were connected with the one great sorrow of my childhood." Grandma wiped her spectacles, and went on, "You probably never heard tell of my brother Guy? No?" as we shook our heads.

"Well, he was my idol, but I suppose he was a wild ungovernable lad. Father was too stern, and mother too severe, and they made no allowance for Guy's excitable nature. While father lived, he kept him under a certain restraint, but after his death, Guy went loose. In the first place, father left the bulk of his property to me, indisputably, while the bare pittance he left Guy was to be held by mother 'till Guy was twenty-three. Being two years older than I, Guy naturally took it hard, and when I was only fifteen, two years after father's death, he broke my heart by running away, taking with him a large sum of ready money, and the famous shoe-buckles."



COUSIN LENORE AND I SAT ON THE FLOOR WITH GREAT-GRANDFATHER HAVEN'S WILL BEFORE US.

"Why famous, Grandma?" asked Lenore. "Well, on account of their value for one thing, and because they were given to your Great-Grandfather by his friend Washington."

"Why, not Gen. Washington?"

"The same. He and father were army-comrades, and when the Revolution closed he gave those shoe-buckles to father as a friendly token."

"But what became of your brother, Grandma?" I asked.

"We never heard from him again," said Grandma, with a sigh. "Mother was sternly unforgiving, and never allowed his name to be spoken. Perhaps, he died soon after; or maybe he lived to be an old man. That was seventy-two years ago, and I've not got over it yet."

"Do you suppose he sold the buckles?" said Lenore.

"Oh, I don't know, dearie. He was a sad, sad lad, I fear, but it seems to me that he had enough family pride to make him keep the buckles, unless he was in a very bitter strait; but one can't tell," and Grandma fell into a retrospect, which at last Lenore broke:

"Grandma, can you describe those famous buckles?"

"The buckles?" said Grandma, starting up. "Oh, they were beautiful ones. Three inches wide, and an inch and a half the other way. Across the top, were the letters, in tiny diamonds, 'W. to H.'—Washington to Haven. The lower half was set with very queer stones, of many tints, not clear, like diamonds, but sort of milky. I've never seen any other gems like them. They came from India. The buckles themselves were of purest silver," and Grandma leaned back in her chair with such a far-away look in her eyes, that we didn't disturb her again, but sat in the ruddy glow of the firelight talking in low tones of the famous buckles, and guessing at their whereabouts.

Five months later Lenore was visiting a school friend, and I was at home, when one day I received the following astonishing letter from her.

"My sweetest Dorothy:

I've found Great-Grandpa Haven's far-famed shoe-buckles! It was at a fancy-dress ball, and I had been in the ball-room but a short time, when I observed some queer shining ornaments on the shoulders of a girl robed in 'ye ancient gown.' On getting near enough to examine them, I saw, lo! the very buckles of Washington renown! I knew them at once! I went to the young lady, and, excusing myself, explained my great interest in her shoulder ornaments. She fell in with my excitement at once, and told me her brother had bought them for her at a quaint little shop on a side street. She was so interested in my story that she herself went with me the next morning to the shop in question, and we besieged the proprietor. 'Yes, indeed,' he said, he remembered how he came into possession of the buckles. A young girl, very shabbily dressed, had brought them to him to sell over a year ago. The understanding was, that he should keep them out of sight of his customers for four months, and give her a chance to buy them back. If she didn't return during that time, he was to dispose of them as he chose. And so a couple of weeks previous he had sold them to the young lady's brother. No, he knew nothing of the girl's whereabouts; he'd never seen her since."

"Disappointed, we left, after his promising to let me know at once, if by any chance he should run across her. Three days later, I got a note from him saying the girl had called, with a faint hope that he might still have the buckles. He told her they were gone, but he knew where, and appointed the next day but one for her return. We were on hand, and oh, Dorothy! the girl was no other than Grand-Uncle Guy's Grand-daughter! Her name is Susie Lawrence, and her mother was Guy Haven's only daughter. She is very poor, and her parents are both dead, and for five years she has been in a clothing-house, working for the merest pittance. I didn't even wait to hear from Papa, but took her with me at once, and as soon as Papa got my letter, he came on, and says she is to live with us always. Next week we are going to Grandma Lee's, and then I can go into details."

Very lovingly, LENORE L. PARKER.

Well, we all assembled at Grandma's, and all fell in love with gentle Susie Lawrence. Altogether, Lenore and I can never be glad enough, that we found Great-Grandfather Haven's will, and heard the story of the far-famed shoe-buckles.

AN OFFER OF \$5,000.

In response to many letters in regard to the prizes offered by COMFORT for short stories, some of which are inclined to throw doubt upon the fact that such prizes are freely paid, we wish to state that every offer made in this paper is genuine and is honestly carried out. We will pay \$5,000 to anyone who can prove the contrary. It must be remembered that thousands of people are competing for these prizes, so it is not a matter for surprise that many subscribers out of the million and a quarter who receive COMFORT regularly should be disappointed and should not personally know the prize winners. Many subscribers have been made suspicious of such offers by discovering that similar offers from other concerns are bogus. COMFORT is not in that class.

"August Flower"

I had been troubled five months with Dyspepsia. I had a fullness after eating, and a heavy load in the pit of my stomach. Sometimes a deathly sickness would overtake me. I was working for Thomas McHenry, Druggist, Allegheny City, Pa., in whose employ I had been for seven years. I used August Flower for two weeks. I was relieved of all trouble. I can now eat things I dared not touch before. I have gained twenty pounds since my recovery. J. D. Cox, Allegheny, Pa. ©



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(From U. S. Journal of Medicine.)

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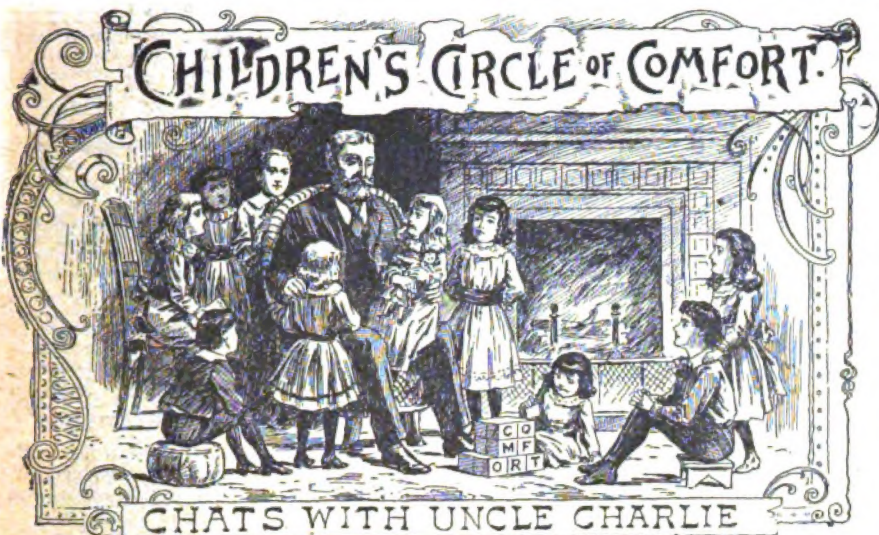
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CHATS WITH UNCLE CHARLIE

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FOR SALE

OR ages perhaps the most interesting things about Easter month are the festive celebrations. Children, however, care most for the games, many of which are of Pagan origin—old, old games. Eggs enter largely into Easter rites, and the reason for this is that the egg is the emblem of future life and the resurrection. Games are played with the colored Easter eggs by striking them against one another, and by pricking them—the latter being somewhat out of date since the introduction of china eggs. For the love of a joke, boys used to obtain these china eggs and deceive their companions when they tried to prick them.

Children, don't forget the poor; you can afford to give away an egg or two to those who can't afford such luxuries. How glad one of Comfort's editors must have been to fill so many hearts with joy at a kindergarten Easter festival, of which he told you in the March number. Easter is the time to open your hearts a bit wider than usual.

About 2,500 years ago the Pagans had a goddess called Ostara or Eostre, which means the morning of the East, and to them the spring-time was the beginning of the year. Old customs which those rude people enjoyed, became the customs of the civilized world. At all events it is well for us that religious ideas are so plentiful, because it makes people better and Easter is always a reminder of the pleasant Eaters of the past. So we venerate the customs of our fathers.

ALL FOOL'S DAY.

AS I told you, children, last month, the first day of April has always been all fool's day and the reason was given also. But don't take too much advantage of the day, don't make enemies by too severe joking. No hot horse-shoes for unsuspecting men to burn their hand with, nor bricks covered over by hats, for people to kick. If you tie thread to pennies conceal the thread, for on April 1st, eyes are usually wide open and the thread may be stepped on and the penny picked up. Don't put a big sign on a man's back with "For Sale" on it—it makes him angry; you would not like it. There are lots of ways to fool folks, all harmless. Try those which you would like, or not dislike, if you want to.

What a puzzle! Well, here is a capital one, old, but good. It is called

TANGLED SCISSORS.

THE idea is to take a heavy cord and fasten it to the scissors, as in the picture. Both ends must be held by you, Mary, while I disentangle, or release the scissors, without your letting go of the cord ends. You can do it, if you try. It puzzles old heads, so you must be very patient.

But this month I will not give you any more puzzles, or games. Instead, I will tell you a story, a story of myself, and what happened to me, and what I saw, last spring, when I went forth into the fields to make pictures of Nature, just as she woke from the sleep of winter.

How few know the trials of an artist! In Europe, where art is old and artists are recognized and respected, the sight of one of them, sketching in the fields, on the road-side, in the streets, on the beach, or anywhere, is a common thing and calls for no comment from the passer-by. But in some parts of this country an artist is a strange creature, a curiosity that does nothing for a living.

Often he sets up his easel and umbrella in a field and commences to paint, when suddenly, down comes the farmer who informs him that "he don't want his rocks or fences cluttered up with advertisements of pills and medicines," and the artist sometimes has hard work in making him believe that such an idea never entered his head, and that he would be the last person in the world to do such a thing. And the next pasture he enters, he may be driven out by a big dog.

But I think the people nowadays are getting more used to artists and one has less trouble than formerly. To those who are obliged to be pent up in studios all winter, the coming of spring is welcomed with delight, and early in the season they roam afield, to catch the colors of the spring grass and foliage.

Did you ever think, children, what a beautiful color the young grass really has? Well, I started at early morning, and found a fine place in a pasture, where there were some stone walls, a long stretch of ground and hills in the distance. I set up my easel, and as the sun was hot, I put up my umbrella, which has a long handle with a pointed end which sticks in the ground. When I got my paints all ready, the canvas on the easel and the view I wanted fixed in my eye, I commenced to make a light or charcoal outline of the scene. No

sooner had I started the drawing and was getting down to earnest work when up jumped a goat on a rock a dozen yards from me. I knew enough to let the creature stay where he was, until he should understand that I had no evil designs on him, and after a while he went away into the fields near the stone walls, and once in a while I could see his head above the stone wall, looking at me. So on I worked through the day, stopping at noon for a hasty lunch, but all absorbed in my task, and anxious to complete it before the sun declined or came near the hills. I was not conscious of the approach of an uninvited guest, who had crept up behind me. I did not hear his step, nor did he give me the least idea that he was intending to be neighborly, until I heard a low, deep bellow that made my hair stand on end for a second. I quickly turned about and there saw, a hundred feet away, a great bull. He was pawing the earth and lowering his head in such a way that I felt he meant business. And true enough he did, for the moment my eyes caught his, he dashed forward with a terrible roar. So sudden was the whole affair that I scarce knew

what to do, and in my confusion I grabbed my umbrella, as my only protection, and away I scooted for the stone wall, with Mr. Bull in hot pursuit. Owing to the fact that I had long legs, and the wall was not far distant, I eluded the onslaught of the bull and stood safe on the other side of the wall. He eyed me savagely for a time, and then strolled off. After a while, I went back to my work. A half-hour went by and I had soon made up for lost time. It was now three o'clock and I was more than three-quarters through. I calculated that I could finish it by four, if nothing interfered with me, and while so meditating, and meanwhile mixing upon my palette some more paint, I did not notice a change in the landscape. Upon raising my eyes there stood about fifty yards away, a row of cows, just appearing above a

rise in the field. After assuring myself that Mr. Bull was not one of the visitors, I settled down to work again, for cows and I are good friends and they never molest me. In less than half an hour these curious cows were nibbling the short new grass all around me, and so gentle were they that I, once in a while, stopped in my work, to chat with them. There were two very small ones who seemed especially interested in my movements.

The sun was getting down behind the hills, and I could hear the frogs in a little pond not far away setting up their late afternoon music. And as I wanted a study of these chaps, I ventured over by the water, and gave them my ear as an audience. I stood there ten minutes before any one of them appeared, and as I was ready with my brush I just managed to sketch in their outlines, not caring for color or details. They seemed glad to see me, for they blinked, and gazed in silent admiration at me; possibly they thought it very fine, that they were "having their pictures took."

When I went back to my easel I saw a queer little man, in the act of jumping over the stone wall. As he advanced towards me, I kept at work putting away my paints, fixing and folding up my easel and umbrella, and paid no attention to the stranger. My sketch lay on the

grass and in a moment or two the little man stood beside it looking at it, and then at the scene which I had been studying all day. At last he remarked, "I am the village divine and am fond of Nature. I think your picture excellent, and very cleverly done. I hope when you are in this neighborhood again you will call at the parsonage. I would like to show you my own work in that line."

This to me, was a very delightful ending of my first spring sketching trip last year, and I thanked the queer, but bright little man for his goodness. So we walked and talked way to the depot, where we parted the best of friends.

And by the time he reached home even Uncle Charlie was ready to go to bed, and—children, look at the clock! Off with you all, then, to Cumberland. Good-night, my dears.

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BY ELIZABETH SARGENT CURTIS.

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DOES not look much like Spring just this minute in the North, at all events, but it will be but a few days before the snow will begin to give way to the sun, there will be the twitter of returning birds, and the air will, as the children say, "smell of Spring."

Who does not know that delightful earthy odor? It is one of the most grateful of perfumes, for it is full of the promise of sunshine and warmth and revivification.

Those of you who have homes in the South and on the Pacific slope have no idea of what the first whiff of ground smell means to those who live in the North where the snow covers the ground for months at a time every year.

It means freedom from an icy bondage; the cheerful sight "of green things growing" in places that have been buried in snow drifts for weeks; it means new life.

To the housekeeper the early spring days are busy ones.

There is so much to do to clear away after the winter and get herself and her house ready for the hot weather that

will come in a short time.

Spring cleaning means something more than the mere washing of paint and windows and putting away of winter clothing; it means the sanitary cleaning of every part of the house, of which, by the way, the cellar is the starting point, and also the most important.

The first work of the Spring for the careful housewife should be the thorough cleansing and clearing of her cellar.

Just as early as may be the banking which has been put up for winter protection should be taken down, the windows thrown open during the mid-day, and, so far as possible, everything removed.

The walls should be carefully brushed down, and the floor swept.

It is a good thing to whitewash the walls every Spring, as the lime will act as a disinfectant and destroy any germs which may have found lodgment there.

Even if there has been no illness in the family this should be done, and more especially if vegetables have been kept in the cellar, for there is nothing in nature which will give out poison germs as readily as over-ripe or decaying vegetables.

Physicians say that in the times when these things were not so well understood as they now are, many cases of Spring sickness, and of fevers were, no doubt, traceable directly to the cellars of the houses.

For, you see, wise and old as the world thinks it is, it is only just now learning the alphabet of sanitary science.

Yet so important is this new science considered, especially for women, that most of the girls' colleges are establishing chairs of domestic science. And in at least one girl's preparatory school, the Lasell Seminary at Auburn, Mass., Massachusetts, sanitary housekeeping is regularly taught.

I know that a great many people are very sceptical regarding the practical use of such study, claiming that it cannot be taught, only learned by experience.

Now I want to give you an illustration of the extreme practicability of this new branch of school work.

A wealthy gentleman built a magnificent house on Commonwealth Avenue, the finest street in Boston. When the family moved in it was discovered that there was something the matter with the drainage.

It was provoking, for the most modern appliances had been used in plumbing, and no expense had been spared. The young daughter of the house had been a pupil at Lasell. She had taken great interest in the sanitary work of her class, and had been a careful and enthusiastic student. Without calling in any outside aid, she made the necessary examinations, applied the proper tests, and discovered where the trouble lay, and was able to direct the needed alterations.

Her father was the proudest man in Boston, and he considered his daughter's achievement most remarkable, and indeed it was.

It is coming to be conceded every day that women should be well up in sanitary knowledge, since the care of the home and its inmates devolves so much upon them. And no woman can afford to be ignorant of the subject.

The Society for Home Study whose headquarters are in Boston, with students all over the country, makes this one of its prominent branches, and its examinations are most thorough and exhaustive. It is one of the cases which proves the truth of the adage that "An

ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The kind of knowledge which will keep sickness and disease at a distance is as valuable as that which knows how to cope with it when it does appear, and this is what is taught.

In the light of present conditions housekeeping is advanced to the dignity of a profession, and one, too, which requires both brains and judgment. It cannot be lightly regarded as of little account, it comes too near the vital life of every human being. The happiness or misery of all humanity is bound up in it.

Does it seem absurd to think of cleaning a cellar on a scientific basis? I don't believe it will when you stop and consider it seriously. I want to emphasize again what I already have said many times, and that is that the elder house-mothers of COMFORT must bear with me if I very often say things which they know perfectly well, and remember that in this large family of ours, which is scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, yes and even outside these limits, there are thousands of young wives who are just beginning the family life, and to whom all which is so familiar to us older ones is new. Direction is what these young women need, and I only hope I may be able to give it to them.

I want just here to say something about judgment, a sort of abstraction of which some housekeepers talk a great deal.

There is nothing so exasperating and so hopeless as to have anyone reply in answer to some question which calls for an arbitrary answer: "Oh, use your judgment."

If the questioner had possessed the knowledge which would have made judgment possible, she would not have asked the question. She would not have been compelled to.

Judgment is knowledge born of experience.

If a person has had no experience, she can have no judgment, certainly not in cooking.

No doubt you have all heard of the woman who was praised for a certain kind of cake which she made remarkably well, and was asked for the rule.

"Well," she said, "I take butter and sugar—"

"How much?" was the query.

"Well, I don't just know, what I think I will need. I use my judgment. Then I take eggs—"

"But how many?"

"Oh, I can't say, I use my judgment. Sometimes the eggs are little, and sometimes they are big. When they're little I use more, and when they're big I don't use so many. It's all accordin'."

"Do you mean to say you don't have any rule?"

"Well, yes, I suppose I have one but I use my judgment."

What if the novice tried to follow these directions. Where would she and her cake come out?

After all the only safe road to absolute success is positive accuracy. Have a rule and follow it exactly. Make it arbitrary. If things don't come right then it is the fault of the rule and not your own.

But there is little to fear if you are exact.

There is one very important fact to be remembered, however, and that is, that there must be an absolute scale of measurements. Most rules for cake making, for instance, use the cup as a standard of measures of quantity.

To the novice in cooking a cup is a cup, whether it is a large coffee cup, or a small after-dinner cup, or any thing between.

The standard cup is one which holds half a pint. Remembering that, the young housekeeper will have no trouble with the proportions of her rule.

The safest thing is to have a measuring cup such as is illustrated here. This is made to hold exactly half a pint, and is sub-divided into half, quarters and thirds. So standard has this cup become that it is now kept on sale at all the kitchen furnishing houses, and costs but a few cents.

Every housekeeper should have one, as she will find it so much easier to obtain accurate measurements, especially in fractional portions.

And while I am on the subject of kitchen furnishings, I want to speak a word about the utensils for mixing, especially batters and doughs.

In the first place they should always be mixed in earthenware, and never in metal. The best mixing bowls are those which have a lip at one side out of which the batter can be poured. These come both in white and yellow ware, and do not cost any more than the plain heavy bowls without the lip.

Then the mixing should always be done with a wooden spoon.

No metal should be allowed to touch a batter. Every kitchen should have a set of wooden spoons, of assorted sizes, some of which should be plain, others perforated.

The plain spoons may be used for general purposes, while the perforated ones are the

best to use in mixing cake batters. They admit the air, and make it light much more quickly than the ordinary spoon.

Of course all housekeepers have an egg-beater. It seems almost superfluous to speak about them, but you know every one has a theory about the use of articles, and I am not exempt; although I am bound to say, that in this case my "theory" is born of experience.

I think that every housekeeper needs two of these useful appliances. A Dover egg-beater which is unequalled for general use, and the French whisk, a bundle of stiff wires for use in making meringues, and for whipping the whites of the eggs, when they are beaten separately from the yolks, in making those kinds of cake where great care in beating is required.

The Dover beats to a smoothness which nothing else gives, but it will not make the volume and frothiness which is needed in beating up the whites of the eggs.

If any of the COMFORT girls are making up lists of the things which they are going to need in a near future put the little things which I have mentioned in this article, as among the "must-haves." They are none of them expensive, and they will save the cost of themselves many times in the success they will insure in cooking. With proper appliances to work with, good rules to follow, and a level head with brains in it, a girl is well equipped for her start in life as a housekeeper, provided, at the same time she has a proper respect for her new calling.

But the girl with brains always has that.

Before we leave the subject of kitchen utensils, I must call special attention to the new patent Christy bread-knives, which come in sets of three. There are, in the set, a bread-knife a cake-knife and a parer. An illustration is given here of the first. Similar carvers are also made. The peculiar advantage of the bread and cake-knives lie in the fact that they have a curved instead of a straight, sharp edge, which will readily cut hot loaves without crumbling, or leaving the slices in that "soggy" state which every cook deprecates but has, heretofore, found no way of preventing. The set may be found at most of the hardware or kitchen-furnishing stores; and although they are made of excellent steel, they are exceedingly reasonable in price.

We hear a great deal about the excellence of French cooking. This is due to the use of herbs making a combination of flavors, so delicate, that no one is predominant but all are equal in force and quality.

Among the herbs in most common use are Sage, Sweet Marjoram, and Summer Savory. To these should be added Parsley, Thyme, Chives, Chervil, Tarragon, Sweet Basil, and Rue. These can usually be bought at the grocers, but the surest way of having them pure, is to raise them yourself.

Even the woman who lives in the city and has only a small plot of ground at the back of her house, can raise all the herbs she needs for the year's use. With the exception of Tarragon and Chives, which are grown from the root and are perennial, these herbs are raised from the seed, which should be planted every Spring about the middle of May.

The soil should be rich and light, and the seeds planted in drills about two inches apart. The same care should be exercised in keeping the beds free from weeds that would be given the flower garden, and the task is no more burdensome.

The herbs should be gathered when they are in blossom, carefully dried, and put away in a dark place protected from the air. When you wish to use them, take as many of the leaves as you think will make the quantity required, rub them to a powder, and sift them through a fine wire strainer. You will find that you will need a smaller quantity, by nearly one half, of herbs thus grown and prepared, than of those which you purchase.

Chives may be kept growing from year to year.

This is a fine green herb growing in tufts like rich succulent grass, having a delicate flavor like onion. It is not dried but is used fresh in salads, which are mixed with French dressing.

Chervil and Tarragon are especially nice in soups and French Whisk sauces, and also for flavoring vinegar.

Until one is accustomed to the use of these flavors it is as well to make the proportions accurately, by rule.

The following is a combination recommended by Gouffé, formerly the French cook to the Queen of England, and which without doubt is one of the most satisfactory ever published.

Two ounces of Parsley.
" " " Summer Savory.
" " " Sweet Marjoram.
" " " Thyme.
One " " Lemon peel.
" " " Sweet Basil.

These should be pounded and sifted together, in order to mix properly, and kept in a tightly corked bottle, to be used for flavoring soups, stews, sauce, and hashes.

One of the oldest proprietary medicine concerns of this country is that established by the celebrated Herbalist—Dr. O. Phelps Brown—whose "Herbal Remedies" are standard as flour in all markets—one of the most popular being the "Precious Herbal Ointment"—the healing virtues of which are familiar to the general public. A London branch supplies the goods for foreign ports. The Home establishment is at 47 Grand Street, Jersey City, N. J.

WRINKLES, and hollow cheeks, and dull, sunken eyes, don't always mean that a woman's old. Half the time, they only show that she's overworked or suffering. To such women, to every woman who is tired or afflicted, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription safely and certainly brings back health and strength. It's a legitimate medicine that corrects and cures; a tonic that invigorates and builds up; a nerve tonic that soothes and strengthens. For all the derangements, irregularities and weaknesses peculiar to women, it is the only guaranteed remedy. If it doesn't benefit or cure, you have your money back.

It won't do to experiment with Catarrh. There's the constant danger of driving it to the lungs. You can have a perfect and permanent cure with Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

AGENTS GUM TISSUE mends clothing better than needle and thread; silks, woolsens, gloves, umbrellas. 10c. a yard; 12 yds 65c. by mail. **STAYNOR & CO., Providence, R. I.**

DELICATE CAKE. Easily removed without breaking. **PERFECTION TINS** require no greasing. We send 2 layer tins by mail for 30 cts or 3 for 45 cts. Write for Circulars to Agents Wanted. **RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C. St., Bath, N.Y.**

LADIES! If you desire a transparent, **GLEAMING**, **FRESH** complexion, **FREE** from blotch, blemish, roughness, coarseness, redness, freckles or pimples use **DR. CAMPBELL'S SAFE ARSENIC COMPLEXION WAFERS.** These wonderful wafers have the effect of sunbathing, invigorate and bring out any shrunken, shriveled or undeveloped parts. Price, by mail, \$1, 6 Boxes, \$5. Depot, 218 6th Ave., New York, and all Druggists.

GEN. AGENT WANTED in each County to appoint Sub-Agents and sell our 15 useful household articles. Exclusive territory. Our Agents make \$100 to \$200 a month. Lady Agents are very successful. Farmers and their wives make \$200 to \$400 during winter. Are you out of work? Is debt? Or in need of money? Then here is your chance. First-class, good selling articles and big profits. Send us your address on a postal card for catalogue and wholesale price list. Address **LAKE ERIE MFG. CO., 245 E. 15th St., ERIE, PA.**

Pinless Clothes Line WANTED—Salem to whom we will give EXCLUSIVE TERRITORY to sell our celebrated **PINLESS CLOTHES LINE**, the only line ever invented that holds clothes without PINS—a wonderful success; our famous **FOUNTAIN INK ERASER** which will erase ink instantly, and has no equal. The success of our salesmen shows the great demand for these articles, many making \$50 to \$100 per day. On receipt of 50c. will mail sample of either, or sample of both for \$1, with price-lists and terms. **PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., No. 121 Hermon Street, Worcester, Mass.**

Fountain Ink Eraser **COFFEES, SPICES & EXTRACTS**

direct from Importers to Consumers. For 18 years we have been offering Premiums to Clubs and large buyers, of **Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets, Silver Ware, Table Linen, Lace Curtains, etc.,** all of our own importation, and bought for Cash direct from manufacturers. Our fully illustrated 138-page Catalogue will interest, and we will be pleased to mail YOU one upon receipt of your address. **LONDON TEA CO., 195 Congress St., Boston.**

\$5 to \$15 per day, at home, selling LIGHTNING PLATER and plating jewelry, watches, tableware, &c. Plates the finest of jewelry good as new, on all kinds of metal with gold, silver or nickel. No experience. No capital. Every house has goods needing plating. Wholesale to agents \$5. Write for circulars. **H. E. DELNO & Co., Columbus, O.**

ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL.

EGGLESTON'S ELASTIC TRUSS Has a Pad different from all others, is one shape, with Self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail Circulars free. **EGGLESTON TRUSS CO., Chicago, Ill.**

A GRAND DISCOVERY!! WANTED—A live man or woman in every county where we have not already secured a representative to sell our **"Nevada Silver" Solid Metal** Knives, Forks and Spoons to consumers; a solid metal as white as silver; no plate to wear off; goods guaranteed to wear a lifetime; cost about one-tenth that of silver; the chance of a lifetime; agents average from \$50 to \$100 per week and meet with ready sales everywhere, so great is the demand for our Solid Metal Goods. Over One Million Dollars' worth of goods in daily use. Case of samples **Free.** **STANDARD SILVERWARE CO., Boston, Mass.**

MAKING FRIENDS AS WELL AS MONEY Means More Money—Business Capital—Showing this Ironing Board. Sells it. Making quick profit. Every sale makes a friend. Every friend will buy some other good thing. Write Quick for terms to agents and full description of the **"Ladies' Delight Ironing Board."**

Walter Hill Co., 218 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

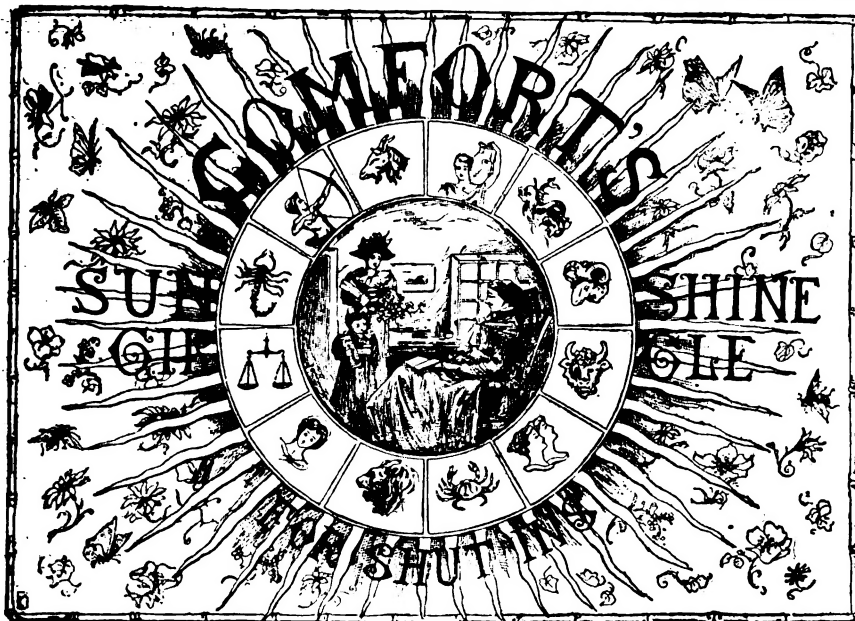
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The **BEST** and **MOST ECONOMICAL** Stove Polish in the World.

Sold everywhere. Sample mailed **FREE.**

J. L. Prescott & Co., Box C, No. Berwick, Me.



All correspondence for this department should be directed to Sunshine Circle, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

DEAR FRIENDS:

I have the pleasant task of introducing myself to you as the editor of COMFORT's "Sunshine Circle for Shut-Ins." I hope you will receive me kindly, that we may become great friends, and have many pleasant social chats together through this Sunny Circle, which may bring good cheer into your lives and into my own. Believe me, I can sympathize with you in your sufferings through my own experience; for I have known many long weary days and nights of pain, when it seemed that all I could think of was just how to endure. Such suffering leaves its traces on our character, and makes us either better or worse, according to the way we take it. Patience is not an easy virtue to obtain, but beautiful are the fruits of it. Let us all strive for it. One little sentence has often come to me as a comforting thought when suffering. It is: "Even this, also, shall pass away." Try to be patient and wait; and rest, and comfort, and peace will surely be yours at last.

And now I want to say a few words about this department as I take my place at its head. We mean to make it as cheerful, helpful, and sympathetic as we can. We wish to help each other in the best ways possible. We wish to become acquainted and stand in such friendly relations that we can ask counsel, for advice, or sympathy, and be sure of getting it. The different writers to this department may find much pleasure growing out of it in many ways; among other things, personal correspondence, by which they may make valuable friends.

So many addresses of Shut-Ins are given each month that you can write to each other direct. In this way reading matter may be asked for, and little exchanges of flower-seeds, pieces for fancy-work, etc., may be made; but don't send through us. And, as I think you will all see, direct financial aid cannot be given. It would take a force of, at least, twenty clerks to conduct this department in that case. Think for one moment of the immense circulation which COMFORT has, over twelve hundred thousand already—a circulation monthly increasing. Imagine the work there would be just in replying to the letters which would come from all over this great country. Even now our regular business mail often exceeds six thousand letters in a day. You can see, then, how impossible it would be for us to investigate every case where aid of that sort was asked for, when often times the distance is so great; and to give without a thorough investigation would be manifestly unjust, and would simply invite fraud and deceit.

But while we cannot give money outright, we have a practical plan by which even the bed-ridden sufferer may have a chance to earn ready money herself; and money earned is far sweeter than money given. COMFORT, original in everything else, is original in this, also, and again proves the aptness of its name.

Now, what is it? You say, "I am sick and bed-ridden. There is no possible way by which I can earn money." O, yes, there is! COMFORT is already a visitor in over 1,200,000 homes. It is as good a paper in every way as many that are published at ten times its price. There is something for everybody in each number. The original short stories, the "pictured bits," the Kitchen Chats, the Busy Bees, the Fashion Department, Aunt Minerva's Corner, the Children's Circle, the Prize Puzzle Club, and the Shut-Ins—all original and copyrighted. Why, only think what one gets for twenty-five cents a year!

COMFORT is already the marvel of the age for cheapness. It doesn't seem possible to make it any cheaper, does it? And yet, the publisher desiring to show his sympathy for, and to do something to aid the suffering, makes you feel personally, this whole-souled offer.

Every Shut-In who will get up a club of five or more yearly subscribers, at twenty-five cents apiece, may send us ten cents for each subscriber, and keep the other fifteen for herself.

The only condition given is that you must furnish satisfactory proof that you are a Shut-In. Get your physician and clergyman, or two other responsible persons, to sign a statement saying they have known you (and how long), that you are an invalid, unable to work, and that you properly belong to the Shut-In Circle.

No club will be received of less than five subscribers, and these must all be sent at one time. It will not do to send one or two, and say that more will be sent later. Wait until you get your club of five, or ten, or twenty, or a hundred subscribers, and send them in all at once. Be sure every name and address is given in full, and that ten cents accompanies each one of them. Remember too, that the more names you can get, the more money you keep for yourself. If you send ten names you will earn \$1.50. If you send 100 names, you get \$15.00.

How can COMFORT be published at ten cents a year? It can't be. This offer is made solely for the benefit of our Shut-Ins; and the publisher, for every name you send him, takes money from his own pocket and puts it into yours. It costs much more than ten cents to publish and mail COMFORT.

Remember you are to send a club of five—or as many more names as you can—and take out of the money you receive from these subscribers, fifteen cents for each one, sending us ten cents apiece. Don't you see that here is a way for you to earn something? "But I am shut into my house. I cannot go out and get subscribers," says one.

Can't you? Now, how many people do you know? There is your doctor. There is the minister. There are lots of people who occasionally come to see you. There is the school-teacher. There is your servant. There are relatives and friends to whom you write. Lay the case before them. They will not grudge twenty-five cents, when they know you are to get more than half, while they receive a paper in return worth ten times the money. Get them interested for you. They will speak to their friends. Subscribers will come to you, as you lie on your bed, or sit helpless in your chair. A boy in a single factory got one hundred names in less than an hour. Everybody is glad to subscribe for COMFORT. You will be surprised to see how many names you can get when you once start in. You see it isn't a charity, it is business!

Is it all clear to you? O, about the money? Get some one to send it to us, (ten cents for each new subscriber, and not less than five names at a time), by money order, postal note, check, draft, registered letter, or in postage stamps. Never send money loose in a letter. It is not safe. And don't forget to send a signed certificate from a physician and clergyman (or two other prominent citizens) that you are a Shut-In.

Again, once more, when you write to each other, don't try to do it through this office. Much as we would like to do everything possible to make life brighter for you, it is simply out of the question to take upon ourselves any more work than we already have. Direct your letters to each other's addresses, and make your own exchanges and investigations through some friend or prominent citizen. And may you get much happiness from friendly correspondence, and much money by club-raising during the next few months.

We receive a great number of letters, and most gladly would we print them all, but you must remember, dear Shut-Ins, that this is only one of the many departments that go to fill a paper, and we can allow it but a limited space; so if your letters are condensed, if only a line or two is given, do not be disappointed, but be assured each letter is read from beginning to end, and the best is done for it possible.

Some letters are sent to this department which do not belong here. Remember, it is not an advertising department—it is exclusively for invalids; for the suffering in body, and must be devoted to them alone. From the letters on hand at present, I take the following extracts:

Mrs. E. Day writes:—"I have been an invalid twelve years from rheumatism. I cannot walk a step without my crutches; cannot dress or undress myself. For years I was as helpless as a baby. Now I can sit up in my chair, can read and write, which is a great comfort to me. My heart goes out to other Shut-Ins, and I wish it was in my power to do something for them. I would like reading matter or letters from the friends, also I am in need of clothes. Address 721 North Washington St., Owosso, Shiawassee Co., Michigan."

I hope the Shut-Ins will not forget this call.

Mrs. T. M. Davis, Taylor Hill, Ill. writes:—"Four years ago I was ambitious to make my mark in life and was studying for a teacher, hoping to support my widowed mother; but now I am a helpless cripple. I have not walked a step for nearly four years, but I try to feel that it is His will. Dear friends, let us try to be very patient; for our invalidism is hard enough for our dear ones who wait on us so patiently and tenderly. Let us not make it harder for them, but be patient, and look beyond. If the COMFORT readers will send me reading matter I shall be very thankful, as reading is my only pleasure."

I wish to call the attention of our suffering friends to an important suggestion in the above letter; which is, that there is always one thing we can do even when shut in; we can make a sunny corner for our family and friends to visit. By showing a grateful and uncomplaining spirit not only will we be happier ourselves, but make the task of caring for us far easier and pleasanter for the relative, friend, or nurse who waits upon us.

Joseph B. Osborne, Garrett, W. Va. writes:—"It is with the greatest appreciation that I return to you my grateful thanks for many kind letters, quilt scraps, good reading, and other help I have received. I could not answer all the letters on account of lack of means to mail them; but I hope none will think themselves slighted, and that all will write again, for it is a great pleasure to me to read their kind letters. I shall always praise COMFORT for the good that it has done me, and I will be able to sit up in a chair soon, but it is not likely I can ever walk again. I have a lot of good reading, which I will be pleased to send to anyone who will send postage for the same. My birthday is on April 13th. Please send me a letter party on that day."

Let us all remember our friend, Mr. Osborne, on his birthday. Put the date down right away, then it will not be forgotten. I am sure all the Shut-Ins will be glad to hear he is going to be able to sit up once more.

Mrs. A. N. E. Hamilton, N. Y., Box 126, writes:—"I read COMFORT every month with interest, and the page for the Shut-Ins is worth everything to me. Have been an invalid long years, and an entire Shut-In for many months. Have been afflicted with hay fever during the summer months since I can remember, taking powerful medicines for relief which have injured my digestion so much that I seem literally starving. I should be pleased to receive letters from others similarly afflicted, as I am lonely and it seems as if there was no one to sympathize with me. Who would like to send a few scraps of silk for a boot cushion pattern to be made in crazy work, also a pattern of the sickle described in the December number? I will send patterns in exchange for scraps. Love and sympathy to you all."

I trust that our dear friend will no longer have a chance to feel lonely now that she has joined the COMFORT circle, and that all who can will remember her with letters and scraps of silk.

Miss S. E. Johnson, Scarborough, Harford Co., Md. writes:—"As I sit by my warm fireside this windy afternoon and gaze out upon a world wrapped in snow, I am impressed with the gloom of the day; yet I know full well somewhere beyond this ice and snow there is a land where the fairest roses are blooming, and tuneful birds are filling the air with sweetest melody; and I love to think of these beautiful things for it helps me to bear the wintry blasts. Just so it may be with you dear friends; many of you are suffering pain, enduring bitter trials and sorrows. The storms, and clouds, and shadows of this life depress you, yet remember, beyond it all is a land where storms can never come, where pain and sorrow are never known, and where immortal flowers forever bloom. May you all reach that fair land and join the goodly company 'who have gone up through great tribulation.' I should be very much pleased to have the friends who love flowers write to me, and I should consider it a great kindness to have a package of seeds sent me from every State in the Union, with name of flower and State written plainly upon it. My object in this request is, that I might have during the coming season a United States flower-bed."

Let us all do what we can to help the "United States flower-bed." It is a pretty idea, and this is one of the many ways in which we can, with little trouble, minister to the happiness of others. I think the great danger to be guarded against in ill health, is that of becoming too much wrapped up in ourselves, which makes us morbid, selfish, and unhappy; and this department in COMFORT gives all the readers a chance to look upon other's burdens and help to lighten them. By so doing, their own will grow lighter. Will you not each one send in your favorite verse of poetry, or some comforting word or thought that has cheered you, and which may cheer others? This exchange of comforting thoughts would, I think, be very pleasant. It would be a pleasure, too, to hear how some of our Shut-Ins pass the time: by what work, or by what books they

are enabled to make the day seem less tedious, and, perhaps, turn it to good account. This exchange might give to others ideas of new work or new books they could enjoy. I must close by giving you all one verse to cheer you.

"Rejoice, O grieving heart!
The hours fly fast;
With each some sorrow dies,
With each some shadow flies;
Until at last
The red dawn in the east
Bids weary night depart,
And pain is past.
Rejoice, then, grieving heart,
The hours fly fast."

With the best wishes for your comfort, believe me,
SISTER MARGARET.

St. VITUS DANCE. One bottle Dr. M. M. Fenners' Specific always cures. Circular with cures. Fredonia, N. Y.

The Czar of Russia does not institute, nor is he in many instances even aware of, the elaborate precautions taken for his safety, for fear of assassination. He is a large, tremendously powerful man, of great personal courage. He is surrounded by these safeguards by the dignitaries of his personal retinue, partly for their own safety and partly to avoid the very uncomfortable fate they would meet were anything to happen to him. His father was blown to pieces twelve years ago by a Nihilist bomb and all of his predecessors upon the Russian throne have met with either violent or mysterious deaths. It is said that several chambers are prepared for him nightly and that no one but the Czar himself knows beforehand in which room he will sleep.

Stops toothache instantly, Dent's Toothache Gum. All Druggists, or send 15 cts. Dent & Co., Detroit, Mich.

You Dye in 30 minutes Turkey red on cotton that won't freeze, boil or wash out. No other dye will do it. Package to color 2 lbs. by mail, 10 cts.; 6, any color—for wool or cotton, 40c. Big pay Agents. Write quick. Mention this paper. FRENCH DYE CO., Vassar, Mich.

Rupture

To obtain the best knowledge of how to be cured, send for J. A. Sherman's New Publication, illustrated with photographic likenesses of American and English patients before treatment and after cure, with particulars of each case. No work so convincingly interesting has ever before been published. Sent by express on receipt of 25 cts. Plain book of information sent for 10 cts. Sherman recently returned from London, England, where the result of his treatment surprised the most eminent Surgeons, and may now be consulted at his former office, 294 Broadway, N. Y.

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.

I have berries, grapes and peaches, a yeast tid, fresh as when picked. I use "Hood's Improved Process;" do not heat or seal the fruit, just put it up cold. Keeps perfectly fresh, and costs almost nothing; can put up a bushel in ten minutes. Last week I sold directions to over one hundred families. Any one will pay a dollar for directions when they see the beautiful fruit samples. Fall and winter are the best time to sell directions, so people can experiment and be ready for next fruit season. As there are many poor people like myself, I consider it my duty to give my experience to such, and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars around home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and complete directions to any of your readers for 19 two-cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the sample, postage, etc., to me.

Mrs. Henry Griffith, New Concord, Ohio.

THE FAMILY RECORD.

A gorgeously beautiful picture in magnificent coloring upon a back ground of pure gold; size, 16x22. In the center resting upon a beautiful easel and supported by a slab of purest marble is an open book in which to register the names and births of each member of the family, on the left is a beautiful scroll and on the right another beautiful scroll on which to register the marriages and deaths. Surmounting all in most beautiful letters are the words, "GOD BLESS OUR FAMILY." Underneath are spaces for Fathers and Mothers' pictures, and all around are slender spaces to give my experience to such, and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars around home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and complete directions to any of your readers for 19 two-cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the sample, postage, etc., to me.

Sample by mail 35c; 6 for \$1.25; 12 for \$2.00; 25 for \$4.00, 50 for \$7.50; 100 for \$13.50; 500 and a Handsome Watch and Chain \$65.00. All charges prepaid. STANDARTH SUPPLY HOUSE, Chicago, Ill.

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FORTUNES FOR OLD COINS. I BUY 1000 DATES AND VARIETIES OF COINS. If you find any issued before 1871 with plain date, keep them and send them to me at once for my circular. Watch for silver dollars dated between 1794 and 1899; half dollars dated before 1864; quarters dated before 1864; any 3 cent pieces; 2 cent pieces dated between 1864 and 1877; all half cents; foreign coins, Confederate currency, etc. I will pay from \$1.000 over face value, if as required. Among the prices are \$5.75 for 1853 quarters, \$10 for 1858 dollar, \$1.00 for 1864 dollar, \$1 for 1877 5 cent or 1875 2 cent piece, \$2 for 1864 or 1856 cent, \$20 for certain half dimes, \$10.50 for 1853 half dollar, \$1.35 for 1853 quarter, and many more big sums if you send in only a few cents' worth of old coins, enclosing stamps for my return mail. I mean mean money, pay, and share fortune to you. W. E. SKINNER, Coin Broker, 325 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

ARE YOU PRETTY? Are you happy and healthy? That I wonder whether you may be by **THE LITTLE LADIES' OWN JOURNAL**. Am I now? You may easily judge by **THE LITTLE LADIES' OWN JOURNAL**. If you are ill or tired out, have defects of figure or complexion, write me at once for advice, photos, Journal, etc. (Postage 2c.) Editor Ladies' Own Journal, San Francisco, Cal.

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FAT FOLKS reduced 15. Anyone can make money at home. Dr. Isaac Brooks, Woodard, O. writes: "It is a safe and powerful fat reducer and is curing me of (Fibroid Disease)." Miss M. Ainley, Suppl. Ark. says: "I lost 45 lbs. and feel splendid." Costs a trifle and is as easy to make as "Grape Jelly." No starving, no sickness. Write today as this ad may not appear again. Particulars (sealed) 5c. HALL & CO., "R" Box 404, St. Louis, Mo.

SILK DRESS FREE! We will GIVE AWAY absolutely FREE of cost, an elegant black or colored SILK DRESS pattern of 16 yards to any young lady in every town in America, who is willing to introduce the magazine into her friends' homes. "THE MODERN QUEEN," a large 16-page, 64 column, illustrated magazine, one of the best published. Devoted to Fiction, Fashions, Flowers, Fancy Work, Home Decorations and everything pertaining to the household. Send at once 25 Cents for the magazine one year on trial and a package of elegant silks to select from. Address THE MODERN QUEEN CO., 76-78-80 Center Street, New Haven, Conn.

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7. And offers pleasant, profitable, permanent positions.
8. Owners and article have the highest endorsements.
9. To get particulars and free samples you must act today
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"It was named after the city of Geneva, in Switzerland on account of its picturesque scenery. Its name at first was Big Foot Lake but was changed to Geneva. The town on its shore is not a very large place, but is growing every year. The population is between five and six thousand. Mr. Featherstone-bough was the first man that ever surveyed Geneva. It is a very beautiful place. The first electric light and water works system was first introduced into Geneva in 1890. The Chicago and North-western railroad is the only one that comes in here. Chicago is eighty-six miles southeast of here. There are four large florists here who supply stores in Chicago with flowers. The city garden is a beautiful place in the summer. It contains ten acres. When the fruit is ripe it is a lovely sight. Geneva is a very popular place for people to go to in the summer from St. Louis, New Orleans, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Detroit and many other places. Several wealthy men of Chicago, Racine and Milwaukee have nice summer residences built around the shore-lake. These people come out to their summer homes about



portant industry and many driers are successfully run every season. Nearly all kinds of fruit are dried, but as apples are the most abundant I will describe the way in which they are evaporated. When the fruit is fully grown, though not fully ripe, it is gathered and carried into a building where boys and

"I am a little girl ten years old. I live at Clarks-ville, Eldorado, and go to school. I have got a pet



BLIND SUSAN.

BY LORETTA FULLER.

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IT WAS away back in the thirties that my grandmother used to tell her children the thrilling incident I have now in mind. It has the merit of a story, of being a "really true" tale, although its deeply laid plot was horrible enough to have been conceived in the dark ages. But the greed of gain, if indulged, has the same tendency in any age, blighting every good growth in the character and steeling the heart against every human impulse.

Blind Susan (this is the only name my mother remembers hearing her called) was a native of the same town in which my grandmother was born, who therefore knew her well. Her misfortune opened to her the door of many homes, where she was the subject of sympathy and pity, but never an "object of charity." Family pride and the spirit of independence were hers to a fault, and being an accomplished musician for those days, she persisted in going from place to place, wherever she could obtain engagements, saying pathetically: "It is the one thing I can do well." So her lithe, well-dressed figure, her dog Bruno and her well-beloved violin were a trio familiar to the pleasure-loving class in many adjacent towns.

One frosty morning in early winter about an hour before dawn, this odd trio entered a waiting carriage at Music Hall, in a town in western New York, where she had been one of the musicians at a Citizen's Ball. The driver had protested against Bruno's entering the carriage. "He can ride on the box with me," he said.

"Bruno goes where I go," his mistress said, with just a hesitating motion, as though to leave the carriage. This gained her point, for "what's the use of losing a passenger just for a whim?" he muttered. "Take me to a good hotel on a quiet street," she told him, and they were soon spinning along over the frozen ground in the direction of the suburbs. The ride seemed long to her, and the night air was chill—or was it a slight apprehension that made her shiver visibly as she turned her sightless eyes toward the window?

It was a strange place—and with a blind person's intuitions she stroked the head of her dumb friend, who placed his nose on her arm in affectionate appreciation. "You'll protect me, won't you Bruno?" she whispered. With an intelligence almost human, and an affection which would shame much of the friendship in the world, he did indeed prove his love and constancy as well as his sagacity on that terrible morning.

Upon reaching the hotel the clerk refused to allow the dog to share her room. "Very well," she said firmly, "Bruno always goes where I go. Call me a carriage, please."

The clerk relented, though suddenly, and permitted the dog to accompany her. Upon reaching her room she proceeded (as was her usual custom in a strange house) to "get acquainted"—thrusting her "wand" as she called her stout cane—into any niche she could reach with her hands, while Bruno sat passively watching her. He was used to his mistress' ways and her movements were interesting to him. He offered no objection until she approached the bed, when with a savage growl he sprang forward, placed himself between her and it, and, seizing her dress, tried to pull her away.

For a moment Blind Susan stood motionless. The room was utterly dark, though she did not realize it, for she had never known the light. That some danger threatened was certain; that it was connected with the bed she was equally sure. The horrible suspense which was worse to bear than open attack, urged her on, and she insisted, despite the repeated and touching attempts of Bruno to deter her from it, in thoroughly investigating the bed, using her hands and cane in lieu of eyes. She found the bed and the lower part of the bedding (with the exception of the outer spread) to be firmly fastened to the sides of the bedstead, and also that the latter was of a peculiar model. With her cane she found an opening back of the bed, strongly suggestive of an open trap door.

By this time, Bruno, worn with anxiety and terror, had crouched in a corner, where he continued to groan miserably. When he saw that his friend was ready to leave the place of danger, he came bounding to her, seizing her dress and pulling her into an easy chair where she remained through the night.

Blind Susan only tarried in the morning to settle her bill, proceeding directly to the authorities of the town to whom she told her strange experience and startling discoveries. Investigations were subsequently made, disclosing a large movable vat of boiling water in the cellar, trap-doors in the guests' rooms, the bedsteads all made after a peculiar model, moving upon an axle in the centre, which tipping backward precipitated the occupant through the trap into the vat below. Further search revealed human bones and skeletons with but very shallow burial in the sub-cellar, and quantities of trunks in the attic. It is hardly necessary to say that the proprietors were brought to justice (though what their punishment was my grandmother never stated) and the building was razed to the ground. Blind Susan was not only rewarded for her prompt action in the matter, but she became in great demand as a violinist in the large cities and towns all over the surrounding country; and Bruno went until his death a gold collar, bearing a short but appropriate inscription, presented by the town of S—.

During the inauguration of the governor of Illinois recently, many of the politicians who attended were dexterously relieved, by clever pickpockets, of their gorgeous diamond pins and studs. On the train, returning, a prominent saloon-keeper undertook to explain to those sitting near by, how a friend of his had been robbed. So interested was he that he did not notice the suspicious he was arousing in his hearers—when he supposed of course all recognized him—but when he pulled out his hand towards the stud of one of his auditors, half a dozen men pounced upon him. He was pulled from his seat and dragged toward the car door. He at first thought it was a joke, but when he reached the platform things began to look serious. He is a large man, and made a desperate struggle, but amid cries of "He's a pickpocket; throw him off!" he was lifted bodily and hurled from the flying train. Luckily he fell in the midst of a huge drift, which, however filled his neck and sleeves with snow. By the time he had dug out his ears and eyes the train was disappearing in the distance. It took him two hours to break his way through to the next station, a distance of four miles, and they say he is the maddest man on earth.

THEN AND NOW.

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A



AMERICAN table-knives are fit only for carving soup and apple-sauce.

It must be confessed that the man who made this statement was not far from the truth. It seems astonishing that an implement which has been in constant use for two or three thousand years, should not have been materially improved in this progressive country.

History tells us that in the time of Herodotus the knives used by Egyptian surgeons were of stone, as, in fact, they were always in ancient days. A surgeon's knife of that kind could not have had a very sharp edge, and when one tries to cut a tough steak with the ordinary plated knife of to-day he is reminded forcibly of the ancient stone knife.

English cutlery is of a much better quality than American. Indeed many European travellers in this country, bring their English knives over with them, and insist upon using them.

Up to the 12th century forks were unknown, as a table implement, although the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Latins had a large forked instrument which they used for lifting things, stirring the fire or making hay. Some archaeologists claim that table forks of a rude character were found in the ruins of the Apian Way, and Greek writers speak of a fork used to lift meat from a boiling pot.

Records show that they were used at the table, however, in the 12th century. An inventory of a prince's plate in 1379 mentions them particularly. They came first into general use in Italy, and not there until the end of the 15th century. An old writer who says much in praise of an Italian king who was so graceful as to be able to eat with a fork and convey it at the same time, without soiling his clothes, tells us that even then (1490) meat was taken with the fingers, which for that reason were much stained with saffron, that being the favorite seasoning at that time.

At the close of the 16th century forks were novelties at the court of France. In the convent of St. Maur they were opposed as sinful by the old monks, when the progressive younger ones tried to use them. In other monasteries, also, their use was forbidden as a superfluous luxury.

A traveller, writing in 1611 of his journeyings, records with much care that "No other nation in Christendom save Italy" observes the "strange custom" of eating with forks. He was so much pleased with the fashion, however, that he learned this strange accomplishment and brought it back to England with him, "being often quipped for the using of my fork by a certain learned gentleman who in his merry humour doubted not to call me, at table, Lucifer, only for using a fork at feeding."

In one of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays, written some years after this, a "fork-carving traveller" is spoken of most contemptuously, while even "Raro Ben Jonson" ridicules them. In fact, it used to be considered as awkward and undignified to eat with a fork as it now is, to put a knife to the mouth.

Among the Scotch Highlanders, knives were introduced at table only after the revolution in 1688. As the Italians were the first to use forks, the name of this useful implement dates back to them. From their force and forchetta comes the French *fourche*, the Dutch *vork* and our own fork.

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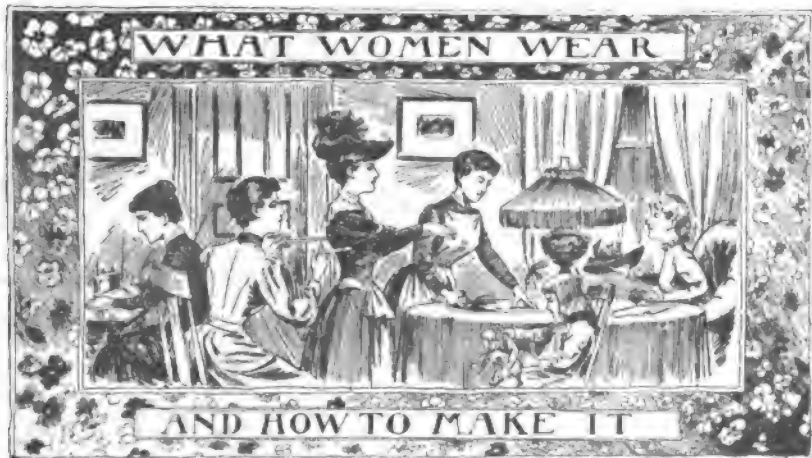
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THE GIANT OXIE CO., 226 Willow Street, AUGUSTA, MAINE.



BY SALLIE JOY WHITE.

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WAS I not to tell you something about bonnets and hats this month?

It was my intention, but the lateness of the season has prevented it. Usually before this time the wholesale houses have had their openings, and the fashions have been exhibited, so that it has been possible to give the descriptions of what will be worn during the summer.

This year is an exceptional one, and none of the houses are ready, and will not be until later in the month.

It is altogether probable, however, if one may judge by the indications, that both hats and bonnets will remain very much as they are, the bonnets small and the hats large.

But as this is a year of surprises in fashion, I would not dare to predict with any degree of certainty, regarding the new modes.

Generally one who has watched the changing fashions for several seasons, can tell what is to come from what has gone immediately before.

This year even the most astute are at their wits' ends and are themselves waiting with a good bit of curiosity to see what will be the outcome of the present condition.

Never in the history of modern fashion has there been such a complete over-turn of styles in mid-season as there has been this winter.

Of course there is a reason for it, and it is a very material one, not one that is born out of the caprice of the moment, as so many fashions are.

You know, for it has been a matter of congratulation among women, that the recent styles have called for a comparatively small amount of material for a dress. The result has been that the manufacturers, the world over, have found themselves with a quantity of goods on hand that they have been unable to sell, and many of them were on the verge of bankruptcy. In their strait they appealed to the leading modistes for help. Some new fashion must be devised which should make it necessary for more cloth to be used in the gowns.

Since there is a mutual interdependence between the manufacturers and the dress-makers, this appeal was not allowed to go unregarded. And that is why in the mid-season word went out that skirts were to be fuller, and that is why you and I shall have our spring gowns made to measure four and a half yards around the foot, instead of a scant three yards as they have measured.

Did you ever think it possible that the amount of cloth you used in your dress would make the difference of success or failure to the manufacturers?

Well, it only serves to show how closely all human interests are bound together, and what seeming trifles influence for ill or good.

But the full skirts do not necessarily mean a return of the hideous hoop-skirt, nor the retention of the dragging trail for the street.

Indeed Worth and other French authorities have declared against both. Crinoline cloth will be used to hold the skirt away from the feet, and accentuate the bell-effect. That is all that is declared.

The bell-skirt in one or the other of its two forms will be worn on all dresses this spring. The skirt clears the ground all the way round, is gathered at the top, and flares out at the foot.

The shape of the gored depends upon the width of the material. A favorite pattern for double-width goods has a broad front breadth sloped towards the top, a narrow gore on each side, and a broad back breadth sloped on each side instead of down the middle. This is called the English bell-skirt, and flares outward all around, instead of being close in front, with the flaring back of the French bell-skirt. It is lined throughout, either with silk or with the cotton surah, which has the effect of silk, but is wider, and costs thirty-seven and a half cents a yard instead of a dollar or more. It is trimmed with rows of braid or of corded ribbon of graduated widths.

I should have said that this is the first spring wear. The effect of these gowns is distinctively the somewhat narrow tailor style, which is, after all, the most sensible of any for woollen dresses that will be worn in the street and for travelling.

The waist which accompanies this skirt is what is known as the habit bodice, since it follows so closely the plain shaped, exquisitely fitting waist of the riding habit.

It is a round basque, not very deep, and cut away to show a gay vest of plaid or dotted silk and wool. One model is double-breasted, with a notched silk-faced collar. It is hooked down the middle, by the lining, then the outside is lapped over and buttoned by horn buttons. The top is then filled in with a little habit vest, with a high collar. All the edges are stitched once or twice. The sleeves are very large topped but are of close shape.

The newest stuffs for woollen dresses are sleekly woven English basket cloths in small checks and the mixed tweeds. Violet and green are to be the popular colors this spring, and they appear in the new goods, sometimes in a solid color, but most often "shot" one into the other, or in alternate checks, or in rough threads like bourette.

Green prevails above all colors, and is seen with rosy mauve, with heliotrope, with lavender, with lilac, and with the darker purples. Green and tan is another favorite combination of the season, also green and rose.

Among the other colors which will be a great deal this year are the tans grays and light browns

which are standard spring colors, light grayish blues, old blue, and a blue which shades toward green. The jacket effects are to be seen on many of the spring gowns, and they are as pretty and becoming as ever.

I saw a very stylish one that was made at home, and was not at all expensive. The material was fine French serge, which is softer than the English serge, and possesses remarkable wearing qualities. To tell the truth, this was a "made-over," but when it was done no one would have known that it was not entirely new.

The dress from which it was made had seen two years hard wear, but after it had been carefully ripped, washed and ironed, it could not be told from the piece of new which was used for the sleeves.

The skirt was cut in the English bell-shape, which has been described, and it was trimmed with Hercules braid about two inches in width, put on in Vandyck points. The braid was a bright scarlet, which contrasted with the rich shade of navy-blue of the serge. The skirt was finished with a slightly pointed belt of the braid.

The waist was a short Bolero jacket, with square corners and very broad, sharp pointed double revers. It was lined with scarlet silk, and the second of the double revers were of the silk. It was worn over a full vest of scarlet silk, like that of which the revers were made.

With a view to economy, and also to having two or three suits out of the one, the owner has provided herself with a dark blue silk vest, a blouse waist of scarlet and white challie, and two percale shirt waists one in white with red spots, the other white with tiny blue figures.

When she wears the blouses she will not wear the jacket, and in that way she will make her dress serve

many purposes. It is the little economies of this kind, and the knowing how to exercise them, which makes it possible for some women to do more with a small amount of money, than others can do with a large income.

The new blouses are very pretty this spring, and they are just as stylish as they were last year. The truth is they are so convenient that women hate to let them go, especially, as they are just as becoming and stylish as they are convenient.

They are made from silks, light and dark, in plaids and in the gay Roman stripes, and in the delicate fancy silks, the latter for evening wear at theatre or concert.

They are also made from the thinner India and China silks, both plain and figured, from cashmere and challie, and from percale and cambric, these last for the warm summer weather. For this latter season there will be lovely blouses of nainsook, and muslin handsomely trimmed with embroidery and lace.

These will be worn with silk or other nice skirts. Even if she is making us buy more material for our gowns, Fashion is considering the limited purses, and giving the opportunities of economy.

For example, she is allowing two fabrics and colors used in the same dress. One of her fancies is to have the full sleeves and jacket like that described above, of one material, while the skirt and vest are of another.

This is very convenient if one chances to have two dresses, which harmonize well, as they can be put together, and a stylish new dress evolved from two partly worn ones.

Sometimes too, it chances in shopping that one can buy, for a reduced price two remnants which will look well together. One piece must contain enough for the skirt and the puffs of the sleeves, while the other furnishes the waist and the close lower sleeves.

I saw a very stylish one made from remnants in this way, that was exceedingly pretty. The skirt and sleeve puffs were of tan color with hair line stripes of hunter's green. The close round waist was of plain tan cloth, with habit vest, collar and belt of green velvet.



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Another economical arrangement has the skirt different from the entire waist and sleeves.

Some very quaint effects may be produced in this style, especially if one chances to have an old-fashioned brocade in the house which contains enough to make a high shirred waist and sleeves.

With this wear a skirt which is of plain color in one of the striking shades of the brocade, and finish with one of the old-fashioned hanging pockets, which our grandmothers used to wear, and which is just large enough to hold the dainty pocket handkerchief.

The girdles which are worn with the new blouses, are very pretty.

They are soft folds of silk or velvet, unlined and without bones, and are very useful in giving the round waist its proper dimensions. They can be made very wide and full for those who are too long and slight, while for large short waists they are narrowed and pointed in front, or else carried over the hips to increase the apparent length.

And as to sleeves.

There is really little that is new to be said.

The top is invariably puffed in some way. The drooping bell-puff widening towards the elbow now rivals the round balloon puff of Empire gowns. If very great fullness is required, two puffs are used, one long and full around the armhole with gathers in the joining seam, and a smaller puff above the elbow. A drooping frill about the elbow is now also very much used, whether of velvet like the puffs on a close lower sleeve, or else of lace to complete the sleeve.



All the ideas given in this article may be carried out in any of the fabrics which are in popular use this season, whether of the rough surfaced woollens, the smooth faced cloths, the lighter cashmeres, twills, serges, camel's-hair or Henrietta, or the challies and India silks.

Latter models will be given for making the strictly summer gowns, such as cambrics, gingham, and muslins, which, by the way, are to be very much worn this summer.

Not only plain white muslins, but lovely figured organdies, and the cool-looking, dainty dotted Swiss muslin, which has not been seen for several seasons, but which used to be such a favorite material. This is to be worn this summer, not only in white, but in the delicate blues, buff, pinks and lavenders.

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A \$65 machine, sold by us at \$11.00 to \$23.50 will be placed in your home to use, without cost of one cent to you. Cut this advt. out and send with address today to Alvah Mfg. Co., Dept. A2, Chicago, Ill.

Reliable Women Wanted to establish Corset Parlors; Wages \$40 to \$75 per month and expenses. \$3 SAMPLE FREE. Send 18 cents postage for sample and terms. Nichols Mfg. Co., 378 Canal St., New York.

GOOD SALARY GUARANTEED to ladies willing for me at their homes. Address made on hand writing with stamped envelope. MISS EDNA L. SMITH, Box 400, SOUTH BEND, IND. Proprietor of the FAMOUS FOLLY WATER for the Complexion.

FAT Will reduce fat at rate of 10 to 15 lbs. per month without injury to health. Send 6c. in stamps for sealed circulars covering testimonials. **MADE** Simply stopping the fat-producing effects of food. The supply being stopped, the natural working of the system draws on the fat and reduces weight at once. Sold by all Druggists.

I WANT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN TO INTRODUCE (among their friends) Dr. STEWART'S "Quick" Headache Cure. Cures the worst cases of SICK, NERVOUS or BILIOUS Headache and Neuralgia in 10 minutes. Contains no opiates—leaves no bad effects. Price, 25c; cost agents 12c. To be paid for when sold. One package sent FREE with full particulars and AGENTS' TERMS, on receipt of 5c (stamps) to pay postage. C. W. DUNCAN, Newark, N.J.

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Derma-Royale is pure, mild and so harmless that a whole bottle may be drank without the least serious effect.

LOVELY FACES, WHITE HANDS. Nothing will CURE, CLEAR and WHITEN the skin so quickly as **DERMA-ROYALE**. The new discovery for curing cutaneous affections, removing discolorations from the cuticle and bleaching and brightening the complexion. THERE NEVER WAS ANYTHING LIKE IT. It is as harmless as dew and so simple a child can use it. It is highly recommended by Physicians and its sure results warrant us in offering a **\$500 REWARD**.—To assure the public of its merits we agree to forfeit Five Hundred Dollars cash, for any case of eczema, pimples, blotches, moth-patches, brown spots, liver spots, blackheads, ugly or muddy skin, unnatural redness, freckles, tan or any other cutaneous discolorations or blemishes, (excepting birth-marks, scars, and those of a scrofulous or kindred nature) that Derma-Royale will not quickly remove, and that Derma-Royale will cure. We also agree to forfeit Five Hundred Dollars to any person whose skin can be injured in the slightest possible manner, or to anyone whose complexion (no matter in how bad condition it may be) will not be cleared, whitened, improved and beautified by the use of Derma-Royale. Put in elegant style in large eight-ounce bottle. Price, \$1.00, EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED. WE WILL BE GLAD TO SEND ANYONE A **ONE DOLLAR BOTTLE FOR NOTHING** TO INTRODUCE IT. SEND US YOUR FULL POST-OFFICE ADDRESS TODAY. THE DERMA-ROYALE COMPANY, Corner Baker & Vine Streets, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

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The Best Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Blood Purifier. Pains in Back and Limbs, Tired, Dragged Out, Nervous Feeling, Debility and Low Vitality Quickly Cured as well as Dyspepsia, Constipation, Sleeplessness, Impure Blood, Rheumatism or Catarrh. Sample Free for stamps. AGENTS PAID WEEKLY SALARY.

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Ladies or Gents, Best seller known. Sewed at every house, place of business or farm the year round. "Home" Electric Sewing Machine, kind of sewing machine. Cheap, powerful earth. Concentrated instantly a wash or sewing machine, open shaver, pumps, fans, lathes, jewelers' & dentists' machinery, &c. Clean, Noxious, lasts a life-time. No experience needed. To show in operation means a sale. Guaranteed. Profits immense. Circular free.

W. Y. HARRISON & CO., Columbus, O.



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\$100.00 IN CASH PRIZES \$100.00

The publishers take pleasure in announcing that in order to increase the common interest in this department, and to develop the inventive power and originality of COMFORT readers, they offer the following Cash prizes:

- 1st. A Cash prize of TWENTY DOLLARS (\$20) will be given for the best original and practical suggestion for use in this department.
- 2nd. A Cash prize of FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$15) will be given for the second best suggestion in the same line.
- 3rd. A Cash prize of ten dollars (\$10) for the next best.
- 4th. A Cash prize of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) for the next.
- 5th. A Cash prize of five dollars (\$5) for the next.
- 6th. A Cash prize of three dollars (\$3) for the next.
- 7th. Ten Cash prizes of two dollars (\$2) each for the next ten.
- 8th. Twenty Cash prizes of one dollar (\$1) each for the next twenty, making 38 prizes in all to be given for such suggestion as rank in the above order of merit.

CONDITIONS.

Competitors must be yearly paid-up subscribers to COMFORT; and in addition must send at least one new yearly subscriber, with twenty-five cents, the price of one year's subscription to COMFORT for each new subscriber so sent.

Letters must be received before September first; and awards will be published in the October issue.

Letters must be written plainly on one side of the paper only.

Letters must be short, plain, explicit and contain no superfluous words.

No manuscript will be returned.

Descriptions may cover fancy articles, gifts for old and young, designs in drawn-work, embroidery, etc. Only such patterns of knitting and crocheting will be considered as are of exceptional merit and originality. Designs for internal and external decorations of the house may be entered in the contest, or suggestions on any topic contributing to home comfort or individual happiness. Illustrations of articles suggested, when possible, will add to the value of letters. Designs or suggestions must be absolutely original with the writer, never having appeared in print before, and not copied from books or other sources.

No communication will be considered that is not sufficiently stamped, and accompanied by the writer's full name and address.

The conditions are fully given here and consequently no letters of inquiry or of a personal nature will be answered.

Articles will be judged on merit alone.

Competition positively closes September first.

The publishers reserve the right to use any suggestions submitted which may not be awarded a prize.

All communications must be fully prepaid and addressed to BUSY BEE, Care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



LITTLE GRANDMOTHER.

for the little "Busy Bees" to achieve with their tiny fingers are the gay worsted balls which make such satisfactory play-things after they are finished.

The work requires patience and persistence, and much care. But with mother at hand to direct and encourage, and to give the needed bit of help at the proper moment, the little workers will make these balls very nicely.

They must not be kept at the work too long at a time or they will lose interest, and what was intended for a pastime will become a drudgery. At the first sign of weariness, and before the enthusiasm has begun to lag, take the work away, and so make the return to it an anticipation, and not a dread.

A mother who permits a child to become tired over a piece of work like this defeats her own intention.

But to come to the making of the ball, which the mother must understand in order to give the necessary instruction.

If the ball is to be a "bouncer"—and where is the child who cares a penny for a ball, no matter how gay and pretty it is, that doesn't bounce?—you will want a rubber centre. To get this take some pieces of rubber, bits of an old over-shoe will answer the purpose, cut into narrow strips and wind tightly until you have a roll about the size of an English walnut for the centre of the ball.

Wind about this, very evenly, so as to keep the shape perfectly round, worsted ravelings. The leg of an old woollen stocking, or anything

of the kind which will give the wool may be used.

When the ball is of the size required fasten the worsted securely, so that it will not unwind.

Then take a darning-needle threaded with strong twine, and divide the surface of the ball into sections of eight. The twine must be securely fastened at each end, and drawn firmly over the ball. The sections must be exactly even.

Next select the colors of worsted you want for the ball. Each section may be of a different color, or the colors may be alternated in sets of two or four. This is merely a matter of taste.

Work a section at a time, finishing it before you begin another. Thread a worsted needle with the color and weave it back and forth around the dividing cords. This weaving should be closely done completely covering the foundation, and allowing none of the cord to be visible.

When one section is done work the next in the same manner, and so proceed until the sections are all worked. A companion ball may be made by making the foundation in the same manner, and working the stripes around the ball instead of up and down.

By a judicious use of colors very pretty effects may be made, and the child be given a practical lesson in color and artistic combination as well as in handiwork.

In this way, the mother may give the child at home, the principles of the Kindergarten, which makes every act a part of education, and trains at once the physical, the mental and the moral sense.

CROCHETED SLIPPERS.

Do not undertake the task of making this crocheted slipper unless you have a stock of patience, and are exact in following directions, for I warn you to begin with that while the result is very good when the work is properly done, yet it is easily spoiled if the worker allows herself to become at all careless.

For a pair of No. 4 slippers you will require six balls of No. 300 Florence knitting silk, four balls being of silver gray, and two balls of light blue, a No. 1 Star crochet needle, a pair of No. 4 soles and a yard of ribbon an inch and three quarters wide.

There are two crocheted sections in each slipper, one of which is shown in diagram, the other is a long straight piece which makes the ornamental top, and is sewed on after the slipper itself is made.

Begin work with gray silk on the larger section at the point marked A and work in rows in the width as follows.

First Row.—Chain 36.

Second Row.—Turn, and counting back, do 5 doubles into the 4th stitch of the chain, do 1 single into the 8th stitch of the chain, chain 2, do 5 doubles into the 8th stitch of the chain, do 1 single into the 12th stitch of the chain, chain 2, do 5 doubles into the 12th stitch of the chain. Repeat from * into the 16th, 20th, 24th, 28th, and 32d stitches of the chain, and finish the row by doing 1 single into the 36th stitch of the chain.

Third Row.—Turn, chain 2, do 5 doubles into the stitch into which you worked the last single of the preceding row, do 1 single into the chain of two made also in the previous row, * chain 2, do 5 doubles into space between the two last stitches of the group of 5 doubles, do 1 single into chain two next following, repeat from * six times more, forming a shell in each of the spaces between the two last stitches of the 5 doubles in the second row. The eighth shell is secured by a single in the top of the 4th stitch in the previous row; this differs from the other shells and it is absolutely necessary that the last shell of this and all other rows be finished at this point, else the edge of the work will draw up as you progress.

Fourth Row.—Turn same as the third, forming eight shells. The further progress of the work is in rows until the points marked C and F, on the pattern are reached when 26 rows will have been completed, and the toe of the slipper done. An increase on two shells is made in each of the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, and 25th rows. This increase is made by building 2 shells on the second and two on the last but one of the row. On completing the 26th row, in which you have 18 shells, you find yourself at point F, when you turn and begin to work another row, but stop when six shells are completed, at point E, when you turn again and work with six shells in these shorter rows until you have a strip six and five-eighths of an inch long, when you have reached the line indicated on the pattern by I, K completing this part of section.

Resuming work at point D, do 6 shells ending at point C. Work rows of 6 shells as before until another strip of six and five-eighths inches is done when you have reached line G, H, and this section of slipper is complete.

The second section which constitutes the ornamental portion which is sewn to the top of the slipper, is begun in blue silk with a chain of 20, and worked in shells in the manner already described, in rows of four, until you have a strip 20 inches long.

The end of this piece will have an irregular scalloped edge that needs to be made straight to join to the other edge. This is done by working 4 doubles into the centre of the depression between each scallop, and a single into the top of each scallop.

The ends should be sewn together, then on one long edge of this strip you will now work with gray silk one row of the same style of shells as before made, beginning and ending on the wrong side of lapel at point of joining them, and work back to same point a row of blue shells, thus completing the ornamental edge.

The scalloped ends of the slipper indicated on the pattern by the lines G, H, I, K, are to be made straight as were the ends on the ornamental section, and then joined.

Sew the lapel to the body of the slipper. Between the lapel and the main part introduce a piece of elastic cord twelve and a half inches long sewed together at the ends. Turn down the lapel and sew along the gray row of shells to the body of the slipper, as seen in the illustration.



CROCHETED SLIPPER.

Now sew the upper to the sole, basting the lower edge of the upper to the edge of the sole, the upper being wrong side out.

Begin the basting at the toe and hold the work full while sewing around that portion of the sole. When the sewing is completed turn the shoe inside out. This is troublesome, but is accomplished after a little effort, both sole and upper being flexible.

The bow on the front is made to suit the taste of the maker.

The soles of various kinds are for sale at the notion and shoe stores. The edges of these are bound with worsted braid of various colors, and they should be selected in harmony with the color of the silk as the edge of the body of the slipper is sewed to the inner edge of the sole, leaving the binding braid exposed.

This description is for a No. 4 slipper done snugly. No one must expect to obtain the same result with looser work, coarser needle, or silk of doubtful brand or size. For other sizes, careful calculation must be made, but with the right materials any intelligent worker can make a pair of slippers in this pattern.

For convenience the following measurements are given of an upper for a No. 4 slipper, as shown in the pattern.

- From A to B, three and seven-eighths inches.
- " C to D, two inches.
- " E to F, " "
- " G to H, " "
- " I to K, " "
- " D to E, " "
- " A to G, nine and three-quarters inches.
- " B to K, " "

The ornamental piece or lapel should measure one and five-eighths inches in width, and 20 inches in length.

In making other sizes it will be advisable to cut out a paper pattern shaped like the one given here, but of larger or smaller dimension to suit, which may be used as a guide in the work.

These slippers will make most lovely and acceptable gifts for the next holiday season, having all the convenience of the worsted slipper with a great deal more beauty.

GLOVE MENDING OUTFIT.

A most convenient thing for every woman to have on her work table or as an adjunct to her glove case is a glove mending outfit. It is easy to make, and it may be as costly or as inexpensive as the means of the maker shall allow.

You will require for the outfit, a ring, of the size and shape of the rubber ones which are given to children to cut their teeth on, a pair of tiny scissors, a "finger," to insert into the glove, when sewing rips, a braid of assorted glove silks or threads, some pretty bits of silk or ribbon to make a needle-book and a small bag to hold glove buttons, some fine white flannel or cashmere for leaves to the book, about six yards of narrow ribbon and half a yard of ribbon in the same color, about an inch and a half wide.

If you wish to make the outfit costly you may have the ring, the "finger," and the top of the scissors of silver or celluloid.

Fasten the braid of silk on to the ring by doubling it on it and catching with a few stitches, on either side tie on the scissors, "finger," button bag, and needle-book, with the narrow ribbon in varying lengths. Tie a bow of the wider ribbon at the top of the ring, and the outfit is complete.

You have no idea what a convenience it is for your own personal use, and it makes the nicest little gift for Christmas and birthdays.

During the past two or three days I have been watching the progress of two which are for birthdays that come on the same day during the next month.

One is in old rose, the needle-book and button bag in lovely art silk showing old rose and white in the design, the ring and "finger" of celluloid in the same soft shading, and the ribbons in the darkest of the rose shades. The other is in blue and white. The ring and "finger" are in white, the ribbons in light blue, and the silk white ground with a blue design.

It is hard to tell which is the prettier of the two, but each suits the particular "sweet sixteen" for which it is intended.

THE LITTLE COMFORTER.

One of COMFORT's editors has been in Nassau this winter, as you have seen by the charming things he has written about the wonderful sights in the "beautiful Isle of June."

Of course, like all good travelers, he brought home many rare and curious things, as well as some that are most convenient.

Among them was "The little Comforter," a most appropriate title, when all its possible uses are considered.

Our special artist furnishes a very pretty sketch of it, so you may all see how it looks, and copy it for yourselves if you choose.

In Nassau they are used to set the teacups on at the fashionable five o'clock teas.

They are also used to hold the pots containing large flowering plants.

But there is really no end to the purposes they may

serve, being just the thing to place beside the invalid's chair for the glass of water, the bowl of gruel, the book or magazine, or the very last number of COMFORT.

They can be carried to the piazza to hold the work-basket. They can be used for a seat, as they will slip into any corner, and take up no extra room.

They are just the sort of thing that every woman would like and can find a use for.

And this she may do easily. If she lives in the country, near the woods, she may get three natural pieces of wood, small branches of trees with the bark left on, have them sawed to the right length, about the height of an ordinary chair, get a piece of board cut in heart shape and fasten the legs to it. The rustic legs should be varnished, and the top may be finished in any way she chooses. It may be smoothed and polished to show the natural grain of the wood, and with the rustic legs this seems the most appropriate finish, or it may be painted in a floral design, upholstered with any material which the maker chooses, or it may have an ornamental cushion tied on by ribbons.

If it is impossible to get the rustic legs, you may use three inexpensive canes, or get the carpenter to turn you a set of legs. Or, if you are strong in the hands, you may take three discarded brooms, cut off the handles, sandpaper them to the requisite smoothness, and use them.

When the top is on, ebonize the stand, or finish it with white enamel paint. The result will be a very ornamental as well as useful bit of furniture.

I did not tell you what the top of the original one was, did I?

It was a palm-leaf fan from which the handle had been cut.

I hope you will all be ready to set to work in earnest to become prize winners in the coming contest in this department. I expect that we shall discover a great deal of artistic talent in this immense family of ours.

Remember one thing, it is not merely "Art for Art's sake," but there must be also the idea of utility.

BUSY BEE.

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Remember one thing, it is not merely "Art for Art's sake," but there must be also the idea of utility.

BUSY BEE.

BUST Wrinkles and Complexion. 4 samples worth \$1.00 for 10—2c. stamps. QUEEN TOILET CO., Detroit, Mich.

A BEAUTIFUL CRAZY quilt of 500 sq. ft. of 60 splendid silk pcs., assorted bright colors, 25c; 5 packages, \$1. Agents Wanted. Lemarie's Silk Mills, Little Ferry, N.J.

CHASTENED Light, soft rich colorings gained by Cryptographs and beautiful effects gained by Cryptographs on your windows. Costs 20c. per sq. ft. Easily applied. Samples for 2c. stamp. THE CRYPTOGRAPH CO., 318 N. Broad Street, Phila.

BABY CARRIAGES Hammocks and Baby Jumpers. We manufacture and sell to anyone at factory prices. Delivered free in U.S. Catalogue free. C. T. WALKER & CO., 190 East North Ave., Chicago, Ill.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

Newcomb Fly-Shuttle Rag Carpet LOOM Weaves 100 yards per day. Catalogue free. C. H. NEWCOMB, 326 W. St. Davenport, Iowa.

Beeman's Pepsin Gum. CAUTION.—See that the name Beeman is on each wrapper. The Perfection of Chewing Gum and a Delicious Remedy for Indigestion. Each tablet contains one grain Beeman's pure pepsin. Send 5 cents for sample package. THE BEEMAN CHEMICAL CO., 17 Lake St., Cleveland, O. Originators of Pepsin Chewing Gum.

Wall Paper. Samples and book "How to Paper" sent Free. White Blanks 35c. New Golds - 40c. Embossed Golds 15c. Painters and Paper Hangers send business card for our large Sample Books by express. Kayser & Altman, 410-418 Arch St., Philadelphia, Penna.

To Dye or Not to Dye

THAT IS THE QUESTION

whether it is better

to wear that faded, shabby dress and endure the scornful looks of all your well-dressed neighbors, or to purchase a package of **DIAMOND DYES** and restore its freshness in another color—making a new dress for ten cents.

Diamond Dyes are made for home use. Absolutely reliable. Any color

Sold everywhere. 10 cts. a package. 25c. Direction book and 40 samples of colored cloth free.

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COMFORT'S PRIZE PUZZLE CLUB



Correspondence in this department should be addressed to Oldcastle, Utica, N. Y. Correct name and address should accompany every communication, even when a nom de plume is used.

Full particulars in regard to the changes planned for this department—a mention of which was made in the March issue of COMFORT—will be printed here in the May issue. These changes will be most interesting to all subscribers, as they include large cash prizes for the most novel and original puzzles. The changes proposed make it advisable that this department should, like all of COMFORT's other departments, be conducted from the home office. Therefore, all those interested in puzzles will take notice that the "Mystic Castle" will hereafter be known as "The Prize Puzzle Club," and that beginning with the May issue, and from that time on, all communications for it should be addressed Editor, Prize Puzzle Club, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine. All communications up to and including the April issue should be addressed as heretofore, Oldcastle, Utica, N. Y. All who have been interested in "The Mystic Circle" are sure to be more entertained by "The Prize Puzzle Club."

Readers having mastered COMFORT's plan for the future of this department, can now sit down to solve the last tasks set them by "The Mystic Circle."

Solvers to January Mysteries:—"Doc," 12; W. E. Wiatt, 11; Rosabel, 10 1-2; Waldemar, Miss Blanche Bancroft, 9; Eglantine, 8 1-2; Essay and Ypsie, 8; Frank, So So, Beb, 6; F. I. Don't, Thinker, 4 1-2; Cowboy, Phil, Locust, Lomax, Phonnie, Hope, Julia McKinley, Pen, Eureka, 4; Misses Josie and Daisy Bourjal, Tyro, 3; G. Whizz, 2; Miss Ida George, 1. Prize winners:—"Doc," 2; W. E. Wiatt, 3; Rosabel, 3; Specials:—1. Cowboy, 2. Phonnie.

Accepted contributions:—Bourgeois, Joan of Arc, W. E. Wiatt, 4; Lomax, 3; Aspiro, Tyro, Hi A. Watha, 2.

PRIZE WORD HUNT.

The following prizes will be awarded to the senders of the six largest lists of words found in the name, "Columbus," complying with the conditions given below.

1. A year's subscription to a fine monthly magazine.
 2. A splendid stamping outfit.
 3. A nice book.
 4. One year's subscription to COMFORT.
 5. Webster's Handy Dictionary.
 6. 100 Complete Stories.
- An appropriate prize will be awarded for the best appearing list outside of those winning the above prizes.

CONDITIONS.

1. Every competitor must be a yearly, paid up subscriber to COMFORT. If you are not a subscriber, now is a good time to send your subscription.
2. All words found in the main body of Webster's International Dictionary, are allowable.
3. Abbreviations, prefixes, suffixes, plurals, proper names, etc., are not allowable.
4. No letter can be used more than once in a word with the exception of the letter U, which appears twice in Columbus.
5. A word can be used but once no matter how many meanings it may have, but if it has two or more ways of being spelled, they will be credited if sanctioned by Webster.
6. Arrange words alphabetically, write with ink, on one side of the paper only; write name and address at head of list and number each word. Address to Oldcastle, Utica, N. Y.
7. In case of ties, lists first received will be given the preference.

Competition closes June 1. The result will be announced in July COMFORT.

SOLUTIONS TO JANUARY'S MYSTERIES.

No. 359. The "rail-splitter."
No. 360. Infante.

No. (2) P X
LI MAR
PLUMMET DONET
IMANE DUSTMEN
MAIAN MOSCHATEL
ENAMEL XANTHORHEAS
TENENTS REMARKERS
LT TETHERS
S NEERS
LAS

No. (2) DORA No. (3) HUSO
OBOLE UZEMA
BOTULA SENILE
ALUMINA OMIMATE
ELIXIR ALARUM
ANILE ETUDE
AREA EMEN

No. 376. No. 377. Diana.
No. 378. "For we have
seen his star in the east."

No. 379. Whither, wither.
No. 380. RAMEAL No. 381. Z
ABOLLA CUE
MODELS DAMET
BLEGIT HARICOT
ALLICE JAMACINAS
LAST ED PACATER
LID RACES
D

MYSTERIES.

No. 407. Numerical.
The 5, 4, 3, 6, 8, 9, 17, 16, 19, 11 is a high degree of respect.

The 12, 6, 21, 1, 19, 20, 22 is grave.
The 13, 14, 15, 2, 4, 7 is an article of food.
The 18, 10, 3, is a small but useful instrument.
The whole, composed of 22 letters, is an old proverb.
Washington, Pa., WILL.

No. 408. Hidden Proverb.
As falsehood counts not on the cost
Of her misdeeds, let truth beware.
The citadel shall guarded be
Against designs to make some snare.
That would enchain her to your wish.
I caution you, be free, beware.
San Francisco, Cal., OEDIPUS.

No. 409. Half Square.
1. A country. 2. Once by once. 3. Critically surveyed. 4. One employed in the tin mines. 5. Species of deer. 6. A low word for after. 7. A cover.

8. A contraction. 9. A letter.
Norris City, Ill., ROY.

No. 400. Anagram.

A painter struck our town last week,
And to each man for all did speak.
But when it came to painting red,
"I out stain anyone," he said.
Grafton, Ill., LOMAX.

No. 411. Square.

1. A fox of Northern Africa. 2. A State of the Union. 3. P. O. Macoupin Co., Ill. 4. Omitting. 5. Consisting of thin plates or layers. 6. Issuing forth. 7. Ornamental circlets.
Ridge, Oregon, ROKEY.

No. 412. Square.

1. A Greek or Latin proper name. 2. A very hard stone. 3. Loose scales on stems of plants. (Bot.) 4. One who improves. 5. A fillet used in binding up wounds. 6. A whole number. 7. Those who look fixedly.
South Acworth, N. H., TYRO.

No. 413. Enigma.

In me behold two spirits dwell,
Weak is one and one is strong;
But each as bloody a tale could tell,
As found in prose or song.

A gentle stream, I onward flow,
Oft yielding to control;
But care not where my waters go,
Except the drunkard's bowl.

I've heard the cannon's loudest roar,
I've seen the bravest fall;
While battling with a tyrant's power,
To break a tyrant's thrall.

Again, a gallant ship I stand,
And skim the ocean's wave;
While bearing to his native land,
The bravest of the brave.

Gloucester, C. H. Va., W. E. WIATT.

No. 414. Charade.

The emblem I of man's disgrace,
Hated alike of every race,
Sometimes an ornament am I,
And dearly prized by beauty's eye.

At night when all is dark and still,
I wander forth to do man ill.
I strive for what he values most,
Which he would save at any cost.

WHOLE.

I am the saddest sight to see!
Good people oft have wept for me,
Distressed that such a thing should be.
Richmond, Va., JOAN OF ARC.

No. 415. Rhomboid.

Across. 1. The act of giving way. 2. Noisy talkers. 3. Price paid for the conveyance of a letter. 4. Those who roof houses with slate. 5. Melancholy. 6. Places where gold is found. 7. Eminent skill.

Down. 1. A letter. 2. A child's name for father. 3. At the same time, (obs.) 4. A narrow piece of board. 5. To fix. 6. A rambler. 7. An oil obtained from castoreum. 8. Enrolls. 9. To alarm. 10. Sedges, (obs.) 11. Anger. 12. A bone. 13. A letter.
Ardmore, Pa., REMARDO.

PRIZES FOR SOLUTIONS.

1. For the best list, Mammoth Stamping Outfit. 2. Webster's Handy Dictionary. 3. COMFORT for one year.

Specials:—Two appropriate prizes will be awarded by lot among the rest of the solvers. Contest closes June 1. Solutions, solvers and prize winners in July Mystic Castle.

MYSTIC CHAT.

The word-hunt contest is opened this month and we hope to have a hearty response from all.—Rosabel:—You have done well on your first trial.—Tyro:—One of the squares appears in this issue. The batch of cons you sent are fine.—Many new departments have been received. Oldcastle wishes to thank their respective editors for them.—All prizes awarded up to March 1 have been sent to the winners.—Georgie:—Glad to hear from you.—Subscriptions to COMFORT should be addressed to PRIZE PUZZLE CLUB, COMFORT, Augusta, Me.—We are pleased to note the return of some of the "Krewes" who have been silent for a while. We would like to receive a list of solutions from each of the following old-timers: N. Igna, R. O. Chester, Lucile, Blanc, Chance, Thisbe, Agricola, S. Payne, Sphinx, Calo, Nosne Benson, Ignoramus, Solver, A. F. B., Harold, Arty Fishel, Fancy, Hercules, Ajax, Veritas, Ed Ward, Eugene, C. E. Bechtel, Ray, Sweet Lilac and Bill Queer.—Hope—Your puzzles are not intricate enough. Try again.

Your Mystic Friend, OLDCASTLE.

A VALUABLE SECRET.

No woman, married or single, should neglect to send to The Token Company, 232 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass., for a copy of the Token Book-let, issued for free presentation exclusively to women. Aside from being the most artistic pamphlet ever gotten up in America—its cover is lithographed in no less than twelve colors—it treats in a straightforward, common-sense manner, of an entirely new discovery which cannot but prove a boon to the sex. It has absolutely nothing in common with patent medicines or novelty schemes, and the woman who fails to read it misses a secret which may bring her boundless happiness, and even save her life.

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ELGIN or WALTHAM
Dust-Proof Watch—Silver, Steel, or Gold—Open Case. Screw front and back, absolutely dust-proof. Looks better and wears longer than Solid Silver. Your choice of genuine Waltham or Elgin well-jeweled watches, full top plate, cut expansion balance, jeweled top and bottom, fit 3 with patent dust band, quick train, 15,000 beats an hour, pat. hair spring, safety pinion, well tempered main spring, polished enamel dial, extra heavy beveled glass, every part carefully fitted by hand, guaranteed accurate, reliable timekeeper.

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Sent C. O. D. Subject to full examination without any expense to you. If found satisfactory, pay express agent our price and express charges one way. Send for free catalogue. HUNTER WATCHES at HONEST PRICES.
QUEEN CITY WATCH COMPANY,
85 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.

SPECIAL PREMIUM OFFERS FOR COMFORT.

INDIAN BUCKSKIN MOCCASINS FOR BABY

Are all the craze! because they are the softest, warmest, handsomest and cutest little shoes ever made. Every mother buys them, and is delighted with them. Hundreds of testimonials received. Being beautifully embroidered and well made, they are a useful and beautiful gift. No more suffering and crying infants with deformed feet caused by wearing the stiff, ill-shaped shoes bought in the stores. With all the experiments for dress-reform and hygienic clothing, the foot-covering for babies has been very faulty. In spite of the truth that the INDIAN BUCKSKIN MOCCASIN makes a correct infant's shoe, a great number of our little tots are still left to endure the hard, rough, shoddy, old-time footwear. The moccasin is pliable and pleasant to the touch, and more lucky children will soon learn the comfort it gives. In order that you may have a chance to give them a trial on your own or someone's else baby, The Publishers of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, have arranged to give a certain number of pairs away. All that is required, is for you to send a club of 4 yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each; they come from 2 to 5 inches in length. State size when ordering and if not convenient to secure a club now a sample pair will be forwarded post-paid for 75c, form the club and they will be sent perfectly free, all charges paid by COMFORT Publishers.

A Child's Love for a Doll.
HAS OFTEN BEEN COMMENTED ON.—READ ABOUT THE NEW STYLE DOLLS.

Modern invention is always making startling improvements, and the latest thing just brought out for the young people who live away from the large cities. We have just secured a new kind of dolls that are absolutely indestructible, and we show you in this cut how they look; they are about 18 inches tall, and made of elegant colored goods. In getting this doll up we have overcome the great trouble of almost nothing after receiving; it takes but a few minutes to do this, and you save nearly one dollar, and get a pretty substantial doll for almost nothing. They will last for years and be a joy forever to any miss who desires a handsome doll as nice as her own sweet self. To introduce these goods at once, and add another million to "COMFORT's" eleven hundred thousand circulation, we will send one doll absolutely free (all charges paid by us) to every three months' trial subscriber enclosing 15 cents; two subs. and two dolls 25 cts.; 5 for 50 cts. Many make money selling these dolls. Send one dollar for catalogue, and try it.

Address MORSE & CO., Box 235 Augusta, Maine.

PEOPLE BUY THEM BY THE HUNDREDS.
In ordering the second lot here is what one lady says:

MORSE & Co.,
Sirs:—Dolls received. Enclosed find money order, for which send me fifty (50) more of your indestructible dolls, express paid. Please send soon as you can, as I already have orders for a number of them. Mothers and children seem equally delighted with the dolls.
Respy, Mrs. W. H. FOUTS.

JUST THE THING FOR CHURCH FAIRS.
Rich Hill, Missouri, Nov. 29th, 1892.

MORSE & Co.,
Gentlemen:—Some time ago I sent an order to you for the Comfort and two Dolls, which I received. Finding them just as advertised I now enclose you an order for \$5.00 for which send me Dolls to that amount. The ladies of the M. E. Church wish to raise money that we have pledged for the new church (now being erected) and think we can make something on the Dolls. Send promptly if you please, as we wish to begin work at once, having an entertainment coming on very soon.
Very truly,
Mrs. J. E. SIMCOSKY.

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OF INSTRUCTIONS
LATEST
STAMPING
OUTFIT

BEAUTIFUL PROFITABLE KENSINGTON STAMPING WORK.

popular than to-day. Many ladies making high wages working at home, odd hours. Besides beautifying your own home you can make 15c. every 5 minutes you stamp for others. If you only devote 3 hours a day to it, the snug little sum of \$5 and over comes in, as the prices range from 5c. to \$1 for each pattern you stamp. An inventive genius has lately modernized machinery for turning out these patterns by the hundred yards as fast as you can reel off a ball of yarn, so their cost is barely nothing to what it was last year. We send the patterns on strips about two feet long and seven inches wide. Nearly as good as many 5c. and \$1 ones now being sold. We buy so many of this one kind that we can lead every other dealer on price. Our beautiful combined outfit consisting of nearly 100 of the largest variety of patterns, each from about a foot long down to two feet long and seven inches wide, not having room to give in detail, but in order to introduce our magazine, "COMFORT," with its greatly improved departments, we will send the above outfit, Free, postpaid, to all three months' (12c.) subscribers, and also send a new book or Manual of Instruction in the art of stamping, and instructs you in every manner of working the patterns. If you enclose 12c. at once, we make you a present of above.

MORSE & CO., Box 70 Augusta, Maine.

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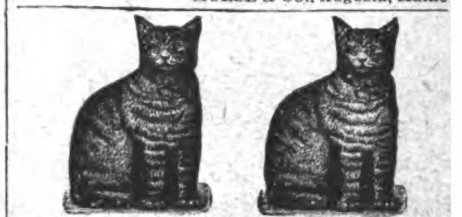
HAVE YOUR OWN WORLD ON HAND.

The Columbian Globe is a great geographical toy for young or old, being made of heavy goods and gotten up in bright Lithographic colors; it is a grand object lesson Toy or useful ornament, showing the grand divisions of both hemispheres, the route over which Columbus sailed in 1492, and a picture of the ship *Pinta* in which he sailed. Every one understands how necessary a globe is in the study of geography. The child who has one will make double the progress that the child will make who has none, and for all practical purposes ours is just as good as one costing five or ten dollars. Ours cannot be broken, no fear of the children breaking it. Agents will make money selling them, because every school boy or girl will have one, and one or more can be sold to every family. We will send one Globe free post paid to each person sending 15c. for a 3 months' subscription to COMFORT. They even amuse small children to use as a Football. Five Globes and subs. 50c., 12 for \$1.00. Address MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

THE HAMMOCK CHAIR.

An elegant easy chair for house or lawn wood or dale; also combines the features of a hammock and of a swing, it is for Summer and Winter use also. The most economical arrangement ever invented, as having an adjustable lazy back and so arranged that it can all be folded up into a very small space when not in use. It is just what EVERY BODY wants to have whether house-keepers or boarders, men, women or children, and certainly a most comfortable affair, having all ropes, hooks, &c. attached, it can be put up and taken down or adjusted to any desired height, from 3 to 7 feet in a second. It is splendid to put up in the door or on the piazza for an invalid. The children are just crazy to use it for a swing. We offer this brand-new article as a PREMIUM for a club of eight yearly subscribers at 25c. each. We will sell it for 62c. if 20c. extra is forwarded for postage or express.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.



ABOUT THE DEAR TABBY CAT & KITTENS.

A \$10,000 PRIZE BEAUTY.

As "Blue blood tells" in the human family, so it is that the rare and beautiful shade of blue mackerel van takes the lead in the great family of these most useful and affectionate pets. When, in the sacredness of olden times, they were embalmed at death, it was little thought that through the great achievements of modern invention and survival of improved machinery, THE LIVE YANKEE would manufacture STUFFED CATS; they ARE turned out already to stuff, however. It is of course never thought possible to reproduce CATS' HAIRS or manufacture cat-skins on or from heavy cloth, but really such seems almost to be the case. THIS INGENUITY OF MAN never seems to be brought to a standstill, and the latest product is just perfection in cats. They are full life-size, 15 inches high, FIBROUS IN COLOR, being the most perfect representation of a household cat that one can imagine, and an exact imitation of THE \$10,000 BEAUTY that captured the prize at the cat show. They come already to stuff with cotton (or any waste material), and by simply sewing together you have a cat looking so natural that you or your dog could not tell it from a REAL LIVE ONE. The ribbon around its neck, set it upon the hearth or up to the window, and a rare and novel ornament is the result. THE CHILDREN love them, they just go wild over the dear, sweet things. It is the most lasting and novel plaything ever invented, and they last a lifetime, being, like the dolls advertised, INDESTRUCTIBLE. Having overcome the great obstacle of weight, they can be sent by mail to any part of the country, and for selling at CHURCH FAIRS, CHARITY SALES, Etc., Etc., they are a decided novelty, and go like hot cakes when offered by agents at the houses. It cost nearly \$20,000 to get THE FIRST CAT ready for sale. MANY MILLIONS will be sold, and THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND are to be GIVEN AWAY! Send 15 cents for a three-months' subscription to our prize monthly magazine "COMFORT," which, with its new copyright prize features, is fast attaining a circulation of nearly two million copies each issue. THE MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD. Two subscriptions and two cats, 25 cents; 5 for 50 cents; 10 for \$1.00; 100 for \$7.00. Order to-day, and be the first in the field to canvas for "COMFORT" and premiums. KITTENS have just been added to the family, and we will send 4 for 15c.; as 4 kittens equal one cat in ordering by the dozen, you can have assorted kits and cats, but cannot sell less than 4 kittens some persons.

Address COMFORT PUBLISHING CO., BOX 1234 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK

Art in needle-work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin.—"CRAZY QUILT" making is a VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast making a VERY FACTORY; for years have been burdened and over-run with remnants of many rich goods. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you at a big trade-off. People at distance have had times getting the right assortment, and put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 108 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get it introduced into every home; when you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. GRAND OFFER: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you, absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you order ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer. Three lots for 65c.; 5 for \$1.00. BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months subscription to "COMFORT," the best Home Monthly now published, or if you send for more than one lot as above, "COMFORT" goes for one year.

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BETTER YET. To all answering this ad. before 30 days we will also send 6 pieces of elegant PLUSH FURS. They come in Red, Blue, Green, Old Gold, etc.



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THE HEALTHY KISS.

AND now comes an alleged Ohio professor with the startling announcement that kissing is unhealthy! He insists that it is the means of transmitting disease germs from lip to lip, and that the kiss must go.

The world might as well be brought to an end at once; and isn't it about time for these so-called scientists to be sat upon and squelched? Not content with frightening folks into the belief that the food we eat is freighted with nine-jointed microbes, that the water we drink is alive with deadly germs, and the very air we breathe is laden with fatal miasmas, these microscopic mischief-makers have actually begun monkeying with the kiss.



ANALYZING A KISS.

For centuries upon centuries this tenderest token of love has been gladly accepted the world over at its face value, and now, when at this late day a man comes forward and questions its entire healthiness, he ought to be given a place in the Agricultural Department in Washington, with instructions to write a treatise on the relative kicking powers of a Kentucky mule and a Dakota grasshopper.

There are, of course, kisses and kisses, but to borrow the language of a poet who has gone before: Just imagine a divine girl with real warm blood glowing in every vein, the flush of health on her glorious upturned face, her rosy lips protruding in the slightest possible poutlet and her whole attitude meaning expectancy and waiting, and then fancy how that ripe, tender mouth would re-echo the spontaneous outpouring of pent-up emotions! Fancy how such a kiss would fairly melt the gold-falling in your tooth, and then tell the little lady, if you can, that you must decline with thanks, because you are afraid of germs!



THE ZERO KISS.

Microbes be hanged! No such thing as a microbe could survive the kiss of love's young dream any more than it can outlive the chill of the sewing circle kiss; and if this Buckeye philosopher really discovered anything about kissing, it must be that he tried to make love to the cook, and got what he deserved.



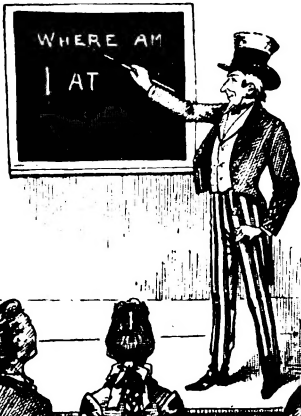
THE UNHEALTHY KISS.

The kiss came to stay.

Miss Gussie Granger of Mercury Meadows, Georgia, writes:

"I am a highly ambitious girl whose family have seen better days before the war, and as there are no opportunities for typewriters of my sex in this lonely solitude, I have long cherished the hope that I might secure a government position in Washington, and thus occupy that station in life to which my birth and breeding entitle me. Cruel fate seemed to have ordained otherwise, but now that Mr. Hoke Smith of this State has been called into the cabinet, my star of hope leads me to ask your valuable advice. Would you go right on to Washington, or would you write a letter first? Our store-keeper, who is also postmaster, thinks I will have to sit for a civil service examination, but papa says that is all nonsense as I am not a mugwump. I shall be awfully disappointed if I must, for I have already had a costly new traveling suit made. And will you tell me what sort of questions they ask? I have written quite a lot of poetry and am called bright and vivacious, and would strive to please. If I cannot get a position in Mr. Smith's cabinet office, perhaps he will get me a place in the White House. How do you like my style?"

ANSWER.—Your style is absolutely great and reflects credit on the Honorable Hoke Smith's constituency. But we are sorry to disappoint you. The store-keeper is correct, and for the present, at least, you had perhaps best remain where you are, as there is no immediate demand for poetry in the White House, and the '93 crop of typewriters of your sex was exceedingly large in Washington. Were you to go there now you might have occasion to return to your rural solitude with a change of mind if not a change of clothes. But whatever you do, Gussie, don't fail to write first. That will give Mrs. Cleveland an opportunity to have the spare room put in order and fresh pillow shams placed on the bed. In the meantime, we print for your benefit a few such questions as are usually asked at civil service examinations.



A DOSE OF CIVIL SERVICE.

1. Name all the principal streets of Yazoo City and give an illustration of offensive partisanship.
2. Who struck Billy Patterson? In answering this question please furnish a map showing the position of the Union forces at the battle of Gettysburg, and give some peculiar characteristics of the Latter Day Saints.
3. In the sentence: "Strike him for pie, Mary Ann," name the kind of pie that is referred to, and also give, as near as you can, the adverbial duty on mules under the McKinley law.
4. How do you account for the difference between a horse chestnut and a chestnut horse, and what is your opinion of the police force of New York City?
5. State how, when, where, why and by whom the poem was written in which these lines occur:

"This road is not passable,
Not even jackassable."
And name the author of "Where am I at?"



Three roads lay just before her,
Each one to marriage ran.
So she tapped her lips,
With her finger tips,
And flirted behind her fan.

Three men stood just before her,
Wondering if she were false;
For to all three
This coquette, she
Had promised to give that waltz.

One was a graceful dancer,
With plenty of family pride;
And the girl could see,
What her life might be,

If she were to be his bride.
The next, a rich admirer,
Had been her girlhood's beau;
But he lost his place,
In the triple race—
And her questioned heart said:
"No."

The last, he was a poor one,
His name was simply "Jim,"
But he gave up the chance,
With the others to dance,
Just to walk through life with him.

WANTED—A live agent in every town to sell "The Wonderful Christy Knives." These knives are money coiners. Write quick to CHRISTY KNIFE CO., Fremont, O.

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\$2.75 buys a \$9 White Reed Baby Carriage, freight prepaid, shipped on 10 days' trial. Latest design and style. Perfect, reliable and finely finished. Nothing but the best material used and warranted for 3 YEARS. We have been in the manufacturing business many years, and are reliable and responsible; make and sell nothing but what we can guarantee as represented. Quote lowest factory prices. Write to-day for our large free catalogue, which is one of the most complete ever published.
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POWDERED AND PERFUMED.
(PATENTED)
The strongest and purest Lye made. Unlike other Lye, it being a fine powder and packed in a can with removable lid, the contents are always ready for use. Will make the best perfumed Hard Soap in 20 minutes without boiling. It is the best for cleansing waste pipes, disinfecting sinks, closets, washing bottles, paints, trees, etc.
PENNA. SALT MFG CO.
Gen. Agts., Phila., Pa.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LTD.,
18 East 23rd St., New York, N. Y. Largest dealers in the World in postage stamps and coins. Illustrated 52 page price list free. List of all United States coins worth a premium—10c. post free. Highest prices paid for all kinds of postage stamps.

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DETROIT, MICH.
640 WHITNEY BLDG.

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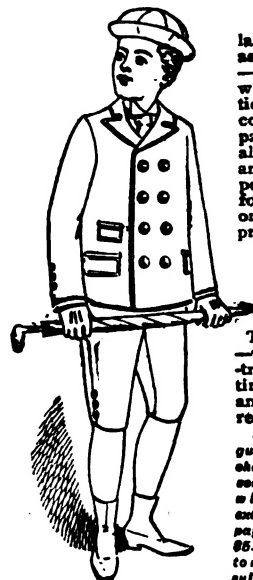
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